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Brown's cash boost

Transport, social services, education and employment all received a massive cash increase in July, but campaigners want a fair share for disabled people.

News of the boost came in the announcement of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) made by Chancellor Gordon Brown. The review covers spending for the next three years up to 2003-4.

Mr Brown promised an extra £43bn spending a year by 2004.

The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions quickly followed the review with an announcement of £180bn investment over the next ten years.

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott promised improvements in access to public transport for disabled people, half-price bus travel, and more modern trains and station improvements.

Funding for personal social services will rise from £9.407bn to £12.208bn by 2004 as a result of the CSR, a 29 per cent rise.

The Government was also

expected to say that nursing services for people in long-term care should be free as *DN* went to press, though personal care such as bathing would continue to be means-tested.

Education got a 5.4 per cent annual increase up to 2003-4, taking it from £45.8bn to £57.7bn by 2004.

An Employment Opportunities Fund, worth £1.4bn a year by 2003-4, will include money for the New Deal for Disabled People to go national.

Disability groups welcomed the extra cash.

But Peter Mansell, chief executive of disability charity RADAR, wanted to know more about specifics. "While we welcome an increase in expenditure, the devil is in the detail."

Caroline Ellis, parliamentary officer at the Royal National Institute for the Blind, said disability groups would be writing

to the Chancellor seeking clarification about education: "Is any of this extra spending going into special needs education and improving access to further and higher education for visually impaired and other disabled students?"

Disabled people had already lost out through benefits cuts, she said. "We want to know to what extent this extra money is going to compensate for that."

Rob Banks, parliamentary policy officer at Leonard Cheshire, said personal care like nursing services should be free.

And he wanted action over transport.

"2004 is the Disability Discrimination Act deadline," he said. "The Government should ring-fence money to make sure we have fully accessible stations. We should also have fully accessible trains."



GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

Golden boy: Sydney Paralympic hopeful Noel Thatcher, 34, tied the knot with gemologist Yumi Yoshitake, 29, at St Mary's Church near Harlow in Essex on 9 July. Noel, who is a senior physiotherapist and is visually impaired, took two golds in track events at the 1996 Paralympics. The couple met at language evening classes.

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Double blow for pro-lifers

The right of doctors to withhold treatment has been strengthened by the jailing of a disabled boy's relatives for attacking his doctors, and a High Court order that a baby with lung disease must be allowed to die.

Three relatives of 14-year-old David Glass, who has hydrocephalus, were jailed for up to 12 months each for attacking doctors they believed were allowing David to die.

Aunts Diane Wild, 42, and Julie Hodgson, 37, of Buckland, Portsmouth, and uncle Raymond Davis, 44, from Waterlooville, Hampshire, were convicted of violent disorder and assault in July.

David was admitted to St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, in October 1998 with a chest infection. When doctors claimed he had only a few hours to live, stopped feeding him and administered diamorphine, his relatives attacked them. David recovered after the drug was



withdrawn. David's mother, Carol Glass (above), described her relatives as "heroes".

Judge Shawcross said: "[The jury] did not regard you as heroes. Most people would regard what you did as quite outrageous."

An application for bail to allow David's relatives to continue to help care for him was turned down.

Meanwhile, a High Court judge has given doctors permission to withhold treatment from an 19-month-old boy with lung disease and brain damage.

The parents of the child,

known as Baby I, told the court in July that he smiled and waved and every effort should be made to keep him alive.

However, Mr Justice Cazalet ruled that the next time the child has a relapse he could be denied intensive care and be administered drugs to allow him to die "with dignity".

Nuala Scarisbrick of pro-life charity LIFE condemned both rulings: "The debate now seems to centre on relieving the pressure on NHS resources. Not a word is mentioned about the respect that should be shown to all people."

Richard Wood, chief executive of the British Council of Disabled People, said: "It is clear that increasingly our lives are under attack from the medical profession. It could be that messages being promoted by some people over the last few years, that disabled people don't have quality of life and aren't worth wasting resources on, are finally bearing fruit."

Europe set to slash funding

Proposed European Commission funding cuts would force European disability groups to compete with other minority rights organisations for reduced levels of funding.

The proposals, due to be finalised next May, would bring all anti-discrimination groups under the same European

Commission funding umbrella. Total funding levels are also set to drop by up to 50 per cent.

Eleven groups, including the European Union of Deaf People and Disabled People International (DPI), are set to lose out. Campaigners are concerned that this could threaten disabled people's rep-

resentation at European level.

Rachel Hurst, vice chair of human rights at DPI, said: "We're very concerned and can't believe they could be so crass as to make it impossible for us to function."

Richard Howitt, chair of the All Party Disability Inter Group of the European Com-

mission, said: "Their suggestion that organisations have to subcontract to a single body would put everything we've been doing to put disability on the European map back a very long way. They shouldn't force groups to compete with each other for a declining pot of funds."

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FRONT COVER: KEVIN KEEGAN WITH
DISABLED PLAYERS AT A ONE 2 ONE
ABILITY COUNTS TRAINING DAY.
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Teacher's DDA win

A local authority has been ordered to pay £60,000 compensation to a former teacher for discriminating against her because she was blind.

Liz Abbott was forced to resign from St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Chingford, north London, in 1996 because of stress.

Her classroom assistant's hours had been reduced by a third and, when the assistant eventually resigned, the local education authority failed to find a replacement.

An industrial tribunal ruled that Mrs Abbott had been

unfairly dismissed and had experienced disability discrimination.

The tribunal concluded that "Mrs Abbott had become a burden to [her employers] and one they no longer wished to bear."

Waltham Forest Education Authority agreed to pay £60,000 compensation and Mrs Abbott's £20,000 costs.

Mrs Abbott, who had been a teacher for 25 years, brought her case under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) with the help of her union, the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, and the Royal National

Institute for the Blind (RNIB).

She said: "In this case, the DDA has proved that it works. I nearly didn't have enough energy to do it, but I'm glad that I did."

"I would encourage anyone who feels that they are being discriminated against to do something about it. Nobody deserves to be made to feel like a second-class citizen just because they're not physically built the same as other people."

Catherine Casserley, legal officer at the RNIB, said: "This shows that unfair, discriminatory practice can be successfully challenged."

Education bill risks dilution

Campaigners are concerned that a groundbreaking new government bill bringing education under the Disability Discrimination Act may be "watered down" if it is not passed through Parliament before the next general election.

The proposed Special Educational Needs and Disability Rights in Education Bill was announced in the Queen's speech in November 1999 (DN, January and February).

However, pressures on Parliament's time mean the bill is now not likely to be tabled before early next year.

The bill might then have to be rushed through if Prime Minister Tony Blair calls an early general election in May.

Campaigners from the Education Consortium are worried this could mean important measures are lost or overlooked. The group comprises over 100 organisations concerned with children who have special educational needs and disabilities, including teaching unions, the Royal National Institute for the Blind and Scope.

Philippa Stobbs, consortium policy officer, said: "The bill could start to slip and get tan-

gled up in the next election. That would mean only things the opposition agreed with would go through and we could end up with a bit of a 'dog's dinner'. It could also mean proposals were watered down."

Brian Lamb, head of public affairs at Scope, agrees: "We would like to see a very clear statement from the Government that the bill will be a priority for the next session and will get a very quick passage through Parliament so it doesn't get caught up in timetable issues around the next election."



Website wow: Charity worker Joe Rajko, 37, from Leeds, was joint winner of Channel 4's *Emillionaire Show* on 16 July and won £1m of funding to develop a website for disabled people. Yourable.com aims to offer online shopping, accessible travel services and build an active online disabled community.

Blind athlete heads for Olympics

An American woman has become the first officially blind runner to qualify for the Olympics.

Marla Runyan, 31, has made it into the athletics squad for the 1500m after coming in third at the US Olympic trials in Sacramento, California, with a time of 4 minutes, 6.44 seconds, in July.

Runyan, from Eugene, Oregon, landed golds in the 1992 Paralympics, winning the

long jump, the 100m, 200m and 400m. She also won the pentathlon in 1996.

Runyan, who lacks central vision, said: "I never really think that much about my vision as much as the media does and I don't think my competitors do either."

She had to overcome a leg injury, which had stopped her from running for five weeks, in order to secure her Olympic place.

Government forms building advice group

The Government is to set up a special group to advise it on improving access to the built environment.

Ministers who are also carrying out a review of building regulations covering access (see page 13) have announced that the new group will operate within the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee.

The new group was recommended by the Government's Disability Rights Task Force, which reported in December.

Announcing the move, Construction Minister Nick Raynsford said: "I will be looking to the new group to tell me how the Government and industry can make improvements in this area."

The group will be chaired by Peter Barker of the Royal National Institute for the Blind and Guide Dogs for the Blind Association Joint Mobility Unit.

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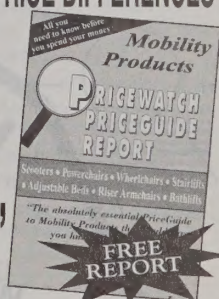
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'Ouija' warning

A father has been cleared of sexually abusing his disabled son after the communications device used to level the accusations was likened to a Ouija board.

The allegations were made after a support worker for the 17-year-old man with autism used a technique known as "facilitated communication" with him. This resulted in an accusation of sexual abuse against his father, a 50-year-old businessman from southern England.

The technique involves a facilitator supporting the hand of the disabled person over a keyboard. It was the first time such a case had been brought in the UK, though there have been cases in America.

But the president of the High

Court Family Division, Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, said the technique was dangerous and should not be used to confirm abuse allegations in courts.

Rita Jordan, a senior lecturer in autism studies at Birmingham University, said: "All the evidence suggests that it is not the autistic person who is communicating. It is the facilitator, mostly unconsciously."

But Dr Andrew Grayson, a lecturer in psychology at the Open University, who could not comment on details of the case in question, said: "Under proper supervision and speech and language therapy advice it can be used for some people with communication disabilities."

However, he agreed that judges must be cautious.



All creatures great and small: Jenny Lowe and her dog Free helped launch Smart Pet Month with Kevin Rodgers from organisers Yorkshire Electricity. Pets and their owners across the country have been raising money for Canine Partners for Independence throughout the month of July.

Mother gets manslaughter verdict

A woman who sedated and smothered to death her two disabled sons, and a man who strangled his mentally ill wife, have both walked free from court after pleading guilty to manslaughter.

Janquil Turnbull, 52, killed her sons Robert, 23, and Richard, 20, in the family home at Bembridge on the Isle of Wight in October 1998. Both sons had cerebral palsy.

Mrs Turnbull told Winchester Crown Court in June that she had become depressed by the burden of caring for her

sons. She pleaded guilty to manslaughter due to diminished responsibility.

Mr Justice Turner told Mrs Turnbull, who has a degenerative neurological condition: "I need not and I will not pass a custodial sentence in your case as you have already punished yourself."

Herbert Hartley from Chorley in Lancashire received 12 months' probation for strangling his 75-year-old wife Catherine.

Mr Hartley, 79, told Preston Crown Court on 13 July that

his wife, who had severe depression and mental illness, begged him to kill her as she could not cope with the hospitalisation recommended by her GP.

Sentencing judge Mr Justice Sachs said: "Nobody faced with your situation could say other than: 'There but for the grace of God go I.'"

Jim Hoskisson, chairman of the cerebral palsy charity Scope, said: "We are very aware of the pressures faced by disabled people, their families and carers."

Universities' job shame

Only 1.2 per cent of senior university lecturers are disabled, research has found, compared to 11 per cent of the working population.

The figure is the same for professors.

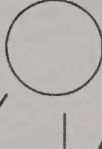
That means that, of a total of 17,812 people in such posts, only 207 declare a disability.

The figures for 1998-99, revealed by the Higher Education Statistics Agency, show that the University of Greenwich employed the most disabled professors at 9.1 per cent, while the University

of Edinburgh and others employed none.

However, 11.2 per cent of staff did not reveal whether they were disabled.

Academic Dr Tom Shakespeare, who has restricted growth and heads the Policy and Ethics Research Institute at the International Centre for Life, said: "The problem is that few disabled people get into universities in the first place so there are fewer to choose from when appointing professors. Perhaps we should address the failure to educate disabled people."




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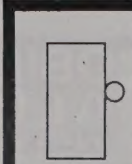
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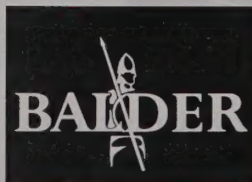
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In brief

Online info

Finding accessible reading material if you are visually impaired will be made easier by Reveal, a new database being compiled by a team including people from the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the National Library for the Blind. Online reference material, newspapers on tape and novels in Braille or Moon will be among items listed on the database, due for completion in September. Tel: 0161 355 2000.

Web awards

The UK Yell Web Awards 2000, run by Yellow Pages, commended two websites designed by disabled people in its "Best Personal Website" category. Julie Howell was runner-up for her multiple sclerosis site*, and James Gallagher was highly commended for his "A-Z of Deafblindness".**

*www.mswebpals.org

**www.deafblind.com

More cannabis support



One of the Government's top advisers has come out in favour of the medical use of cannabis.

Lord Haskins, chairman of the Better Regulation Task Force, part of the Cabinet Office, told the Radio Academy Festival in Glasgow that total bans on drugs were "mainly symbolic and largely ineffective".

He later told *DN* that gener-

al legalisation would be a "dead duck" but said: "Making cannabis available for medical purposes should be quite easy. I do not think public opinion on this would be so hostile."

Labour MP Paul Flynn, whose bill calling for legalisation of cannabis for medical use was due to have its second reading in the House of Commons as *DN* went to press, welcomed Lord Haskins' remarks.

But he predicted his bill would fail. "The Government will object to it, which does not

make sense, is not compassionate and is unfair."

A Home Office spokesman said: "If scientific research showed that cannabis was beneficial then we would look at it. At the moment that research does not exist."

• Scientists at Imperial College, London, have discovered that cannabis derivatives can act on the spinal cord not just the brain. The discovery has led to hopes that drugs could be developed to target the spine without producing a "high".

Decoding dilemma

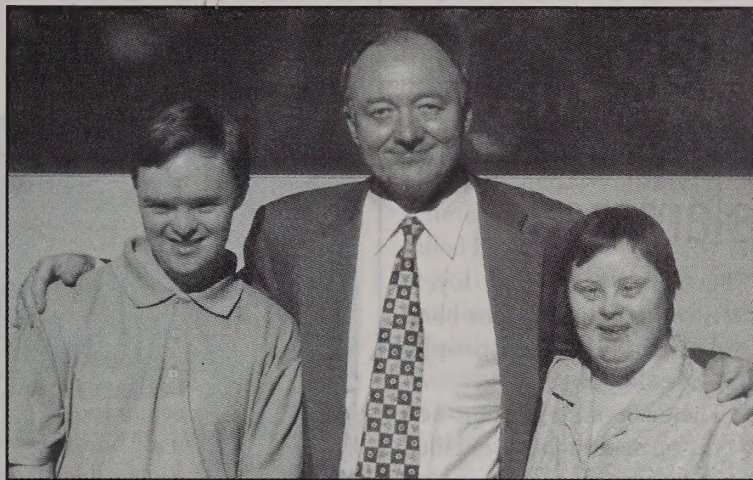
The decoding of 90 per cent of the human genome, announced in June, has had a mixed response from disability groups.

Scientists believe it could help them develop drugs to treat conditions like cancer.

But disability groups fear it could also lead to an underclass denied access to insurance, and the ability to create "genetically perfect" babies.

Professor Gordon McVie, director general of the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "The implications of the project are huge. For cancer patients it will lead to better screening and more tailor-made treatments."

But David King, coordinator of the new Campaign Against Human Genetic Engineering, said: "We won't see any medical benefits for at least 10-15 years, but we'll have genetic tests much more quickly. We worry that scientists will do the genetic engineering on humans that they now do on crops and animals."



Dancing in the city: Ken with Corali's John Long and Laura Hayman

Capital appointments

London Mayor Ken Livingstone has appointed three disabled people to key advisory posts in his new administration.

Caroline Gooding, legal adviser to the Disability Rights Commission, has been appointed to his advisory cabinet, with a brief to cover disability equality issues. Kirsten Hurn, a freelance consultant who is blind, is a member of the new Transport for London (TfL) board. Bryan Heiser, chair of the London Accessible Transport Alliance,

is a special adviser to TFL on disability transport.

Mr Heiser said: "This is a wonderful thing for disabled Londoners. The Mayor is determined to make a difference to public transport."

• Mr Livingstone attended a performance of the Corali Dance company of learning disabled performers in July.

The dancers performed as part of an Our London project aimed at giving young people a voice on the future of their city.

Stand up for the rights of disabled people



JOHN JEFFORD

Stay standing: learning a lesson at the Employers' Forum party

The Employers' Forum on Disability pulled off a double first at its Independence Day party on 4 July.

President Clinton sent a message of support, and nearly 600 employers, government ministers and disability leaders were made to stand for five minutes to bring home to them how they take seating for granted.

Between jokes, Susan Daniels, USA deputy commissioner for disability and income security programs, told them: "Everywhere you go things are put there for your convenience. No one asks what does it cost to accommodate non-disabled people."

She called for an environment that works for all, an end to "special" education and services, and jobs not benefits.

MS drug could cut costs

The multiple sclerosis (MS) drug beta interferon is set to be unavailable despite evidence that it could save the NHS money.

Initial recommendations from the National Institute for Clinical Excellence found the drug, which costs £10,000 a year per person, was too expensive and its effect too modest to justify it.

But research by MS groups and the drug manufacturer

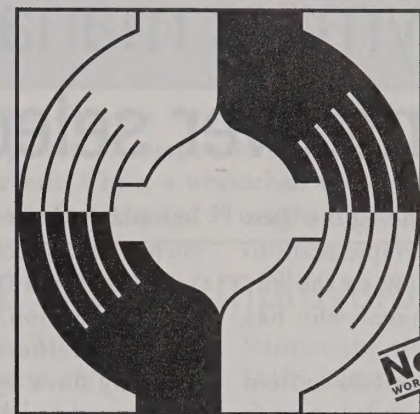
Biogen suggests its use could lead to lower long-term costs.

And Peter Cardy, chief executive of the MS Society, said: "We believe the processes which have led the committee are flawed. The benefits to many people with MS are not 'modest'."

Under the recommendations, the 2,500 people now receiving beta interferon would continue to do so.

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The access 'jungle'

More than half of all buildings do not have an accessible toilet and 36 per cent do not have level access, a survey has found.

The survey *Left Out** by the charity Scope was compiled with the help of 350 disability campaigners looking at 513 buildings and services.

It found that only 41 per cent offered designated parking, 17 per cent of staff were not respectful to disabled people, and only 30 per cent of the businesses surveyed had customer information available in a format other than standard print.

The survey calls on businesses to set up disabled people's access panels to advise on service, and for the Disability Rights Commission to take cases to court to develop case law.

Brian Lamb, head of public affairs at Scope, said: "Surely it makes sound business sense to ensure that services are available to disabled customers. There are 8.6 million disabled people in Britain."

Speaking at the launch of the survey, wheelchair user David Filmer said that going out for disabled people was

like facing a jungle. "Disabled people face this jungle almost every day. We need to hack it down."

Minister for Disabled People Margaret Hodge called on businesses to make changes to buildings before 2004, when they could be forced to do so under the Disability Discrimination Act.

*Left Out – Disabled People's Access to Goods and Services, *individuals*, £3, *organisations* £20, *Scope Library and Information Unit*, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW, tel: 020 7619 7341.

Ex-RNID head speaks out

The former head of the UK's largest deaf charity has broken the silence over his departure from his job, claiming he was pushed out in a "palace coup".

Doug Alker, who quit his job as chief executive of the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) in 1997, makes the claims in a new book, *Really Not Interested In The Deaf?*

Alker, a British Sign Language (BSL) user, accuses David Livermore, the chairman of the RNID, of being more sympathetic to oral culture.

He claims Livermore made moves to replace him with the current chief executive James Strachan, who is a speaking deaf person.

Alker says Livermore undermined him by going over his head to instruct directors and managers, and made insufficient efforts to communicate with Alker by using text-phones.

The RNID refused to answer specific questions, but in a statement Livermore claimed the book was "very bitter and distorted".

He said: "RNID has and will continue to represent all deaf and hard of hearing people, including profoundly deaf BSL users."

"The events leading to his [Alker's] departure were based on performance and management issues."

Paralympic manager resigns over selection

Britain is not sending the "best possible" Paralympic team to Sydney, according to the former team manager who has resigned in protest.

Phil Peat stepped down from his post on 4 July after Paralympic selectors refused to address his concerns about the team selected for the Sydney games.

The former Paralympic coach has been involved in disability sport for 15 years.

He claimed that several Olympic-standard athletes who met the selection criteria were not on the team whilst one ath-

lete who had not met the criteria had been selected.

Mr Peat told DN: "It wasn't an easy decision, but I was so convinced these guys were wrongly done by. Otherwise this would all have been brushed under the table."

A spokesperson for UK Athletics denied that any athlete on the Paralympic squad had not passed the selection criteria.

"Selection is always a difficult process. We're disappointed, but we understand his reasons," she said.

A replacement team manager has yet to be announced.

Cycle network slammed

The new National Cycle Network is dangerous for blind and partially sighted people, says a leading charity.

The 5,000-mile Sustrans network, opened in June, is billed as a "major new amenity for walkers and wheelchair users". But it has been condemned by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB). The NFB campaigns against shared provision for pedestrians and cyclists, claiming cyclists do not always keep to their allocated area.

Jill Allen-King of the NFB said: "Shared facilities are no-go areas for blind people. We welcome provision for cyclists, but it must be built on road space."



Signing up: protestors march in London in July to promote BSL

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In brief

Wheelchair money

The Limbless Association has been given £30,000 by the Government to help wheelchair user groups get involved in how services are provided. The scheme will involve an annual conference, and open days to get wheelchair users involved in decision making.

Mencap founder dies

Doris Drown, the founder of the Association for Parents of Backward Children, later to become Mencap, has died aged 93. She founded the association after her son was born with a learning disability.

Broadcasting research

The Independent Television Commission is looking at the position of disabled people in the broadcasting industry. If you work in the sector and have experiences you would like to share, contact Kelly Wiffen, tel: 020 7306 7873, e-mail: kelly.wiffen@itc.org.uk

Post office plans

Local post office branches may be saved from closure by government plans to turn them into bank and internet centres.

A Cabinet Office Performance and Innovation Unit report published in late June suggests that struggling rural and inner-city post offices should receive government funding to provide internet delivery and banking services.

The Post Office stands to lose £450m of business following the Government's decision to pay pensions and benefits directly into bank accounts.

Disabled groups were concerned that people with limited mobility would be forced to travel long distances if local post office branches closed.

James Ford, Scope campaigns officer and member of

the Campaign for Community Banking, supported the move: "We welcome the news that the Government is retaining the post office network because a local post facility is vital to many disabled people. There may, however, still be some concerns about losing rural bank branches and about whether post offices will be able to fill that gap."

Give volunteers a chance

A national organisation promoting volunteering has called for more opportunities for volunteering for disabled people.

The charity CSV made the call after its new report *Who's Helping Whom?** revealed that only six per cent of volunteers were disabled in 500 organisations in the charity and state sector. The number of disabled people in the population as a whole is 14 per cent.

Elizabeth Hoodless, execu-

tive director of CSV, said: "I would like to see genuine targets set on the inclusion of volunteers with disabilities, particularly in the public services. If we are serious then the Government should ensure that the appropriate use of volunteers is part of the training of public-sector staff."

A conference discussing the report and focusing on elderly disabled people also called for changes to the benefits system

to make volunteering easier for disabled people.

Meanwhile, Leicester Centre for Integrated Living (LCIL) has launched a volunteering scheme for disabled people called Project EVOLVE.

Volunteers will get the chance to do research on disability issues, and library, information and office work in an accessible environment.

*For a summary of the CSV report, tel: 020 7643 1380. LCIL, tel: 0116 2225005.



Flying high: Chris Chegwen (left) from Telford in Shropshire is the first disabled person to compete in the Round Britain Rally for small light aircraft. Chris, a wheelchair user who built his own microlight, finished tenth out of 50 competitors.

Mencap shows employers the way

The charity Mencap has launched a new employers' guide designed to encourage the recruitment of people with learning difficulties.

*Taking Care of Business** aims to highlight the benefits of employing people with learning difficulties and is supported by the Department for Education and Employment.

The guide was launched during National Learning Disability Week, 19-23 June.

Supporting the launch were Digby Jones, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, Derek Foster MP, chairman of the Employment Sub-Committee, and Sir George Bull, chairman of Sainsbury.

Brian Baldock, chairman of Mencap, said: "We urge employers to think twice when recruiting and give people with learning disability a chance."

*Free from Mencap's public liaison unit, tel: 020 7454 0454.

DN cartoon



STEVE MORGAN

"I used to visit the countryside all the time before I needed the wheelchair. Nowadays the nearest I get to it is spotting a Land Rover in the supermarket car park!"

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For the Mobility Roadshow review, see pages 16 and 17.

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Feeding failure

Up to half a million people with dementia may be at risk of malnutrition, according to the biggest survey of carers ever conducted in Britain.

*Food for Thought**, published by the Alzheimer's Society in July, found that carers are concerned about the quality and quantity of food and liquids provided by hospitals and care homes.

The survey of 4,000 carers found that 31 per cent of people with dementia do not receive enough food to eat in hospital, along with 33 per cent of those in care homes. Carers report having to take in supplies of food for relatives and

seeing food left out of patients' reach.

Meals on wheels services were also found not to check whether food is eaten.

The survey was launched during Alzheimer's Week, 2-8 July, by actor Tony Robinson, whose father had Alzheimer's.

Harry Cayton, chief executive of the Alzheimer's Society, said: "People with dementia are amongst the most vulnerable in our society.

"When relatives entrust their care to professionals they assume that, at the very least, their basic nutritional needs will be met."

*£2.50, tel: 020 7306 0606.



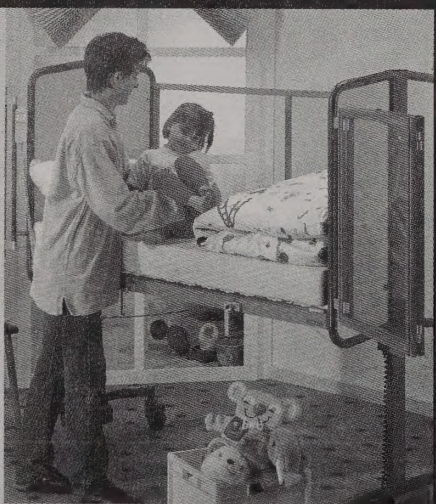
Hitting it home: Members of Wimbledon Disabled Football team played MPs in a five-a-side match at the Millennium Dome in London on 20 June. The match was organised by the Limbless Association to highlight the value of disability sport.

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Trust's mental health resources squeezed

Crisis-hit south London mental health services are having to send people with mental health problems into private hospitals.

South London and Maudsley NHS Trust has 80 people in private hospitals. It initially predicted that the policy could send it over budget by £1.5m.

A spokesman said that there had been a surge in the numbers of people reaching a men-

tal health crisis and needing hospitalisation in the last few months. He admitted that there was not enough supported accommodation for people recovering from serious mental illness, so they were being put into private hospitals costing up to £300 a day to make room for people in crisis.

But he said: "We have a massive development programme

which will reduce private sector spending and improve the local quality of service."

• *Nowhere Else to Go**, a report based on research of homeless people with experience of mental health problems, calls for greater use of alternatives to hospital. The Single Homeless Project's research involved interviews with 20 people in London. *£9.99, tel: 020 7940 7170.

Negative images remain

The general public still has a negative perception of disabled people despite recent legislation and the launch of the Disability Rights Commission, a report has found.

*Committed to Inclusion**, published in June, is the third annual research report by Leonard Cheshire aimed at examining disabled people's experience of social exclusion.

The survey of 1,000 people found that 29 per cent still believe disabled people tend to be excluded and not allowed to be useful members of society.

Seventy-nine per cent of interviewees also said it was unfair that costs of care should be paid by disabled people themselves.

Brian Dutton, director general of Leonard Cheshire, said: "Sadly, it appears that there has been no change in public perception of inclusion – despite the Disability Discrimination Act, Disability Rights Commission and See The Person campaign. Attitudes have been consistent over three years."

*Free, tel: 020 7802 8200.

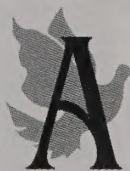


Audie is an affectionate 7-year-old boy with an appealing smile, who loves playing in the garden as well as on computer games. He has a passion and real talent for music.

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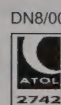


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In brief

Hearing test boost

All UK babies are to be tested for deafness, the Government has announced.

Starting in 20 pilot areas in England later this year, babies will be given an otoacoustic emissions test which can detect hearing problems within hours of birth. The present test for deafness misses 50 per cent of babies with hearing loss at 18 months. The new test would help babies develop better through earlier use of aids, sign language or cochlear implants.

Good benefit news

Around 50,000 people who need short, frequent hospital stays, often for care breaks, can now keep Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Attendance Allowance (AA) for the day they enter and the day they leave hospital.

Two thousand disabled people paying the full cost of their care in local authority homes can now claim AA or DLA.

B&Q cash

Twenty community projects have received £5,000 grants from B&Q's "You Can Do It" scheme. They include converting a poultry house into a resource centre for people with learning disabilities, and a refit of *Lady Godiva*, a canal boat used for holidays for disabled and elderly people.

Read all about it

A new government report, *Public Library Policy and Social Exclusion*, looks at ways libraries can help create a socially inclusive society. For more information, visit www.culture.gov.uk/heritage/index_flash.html

It's a gas!

The Gas Consumers Council has set up a register for disabled and chronically sick people. Customers sign up through their gas supplier. Benefits include a free yearly check of gas appliances and meter reading for visually impaired people. Tel: 0645 060708.



SEA FISH INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

Fish on prescription

A doctor in Orkney is prescribing herrings and sardines on the NHS in a bid to improve the health of heart patients.

Dr Andrew Trevett has six months of NHS funding to provide oily fish for 20 people who have had heart attacks.

Research in Wales has already found that deaths were reduced by 30 per cent among those eating two pieces of

oily fish a week.

Scientists believe that a chemical called Omega-3 may help prevent red blood cells from sticking together. It is also thought that this might help prevent joint inflammation in people with arthritis.

There have been calls on the public to eat more oily fish to combat depression, too (DN July).

Chemical discovery

Scientists in Canada have discovered how a vital chemical works within cells, leading to hopes of new treatments for rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, multiple sclerosis, AIDS and diabetes.

A team led by Dr James Woodgett, head of experimental therapeutics at Princess Margaret Hospital's Ontario

Cancer Institute, found that a gene called GSK-3B is crucial in controlling the immune system within cells. It influences the activity of a protein called NF-kB, which is one of a number of master proteins regulating the immune system.

Dr Woodgett said: "We have a wonderful opportunity to take this completely new dis-

covery from the laboratory and possibly move it to the bedside, in the form of new therapeutic approaches to diseases."

Co-author of the paper Klaus Hauflich said: "We found that GSK-3B actually controls NF-kB's ability to determine the fate of cells. In effect, we have found a new way to control the immune system."

Vegetative state kit

A brain injury hospital is to market a kit which identifies patients wrongly diagnosed as being in a vegetative state (VS).

Of 40 people referred to London's Royal Hospital for Neuro Disability (RHN) with a diagnosis of VS, 43 per cent had been misdiagnosed, the hospital found using a kit called SMART.

The kit involves assessing movement, communication, wakefulness and the five senses. It has been developed at the RHN over ten years.

People in VS are not aware of their surroundings, whereas those misdiagnosed are.

One such patient said: "I had had eight years of isolation, hearing everything that was being said around me, but I just couldn't make anyone understand what I wanted."

Dr Keith Andrews of the RHN called on other hospitals to use the kit which could identify people able to communicate their needs while remaining severely disabled.

He said: "It's important for quality of life if we can get them to a social level where they make decisions about what they want to wear, what music they want to listen to and who they want to see."

Eye growth

US doctors have grown eye tissue and transplanted it into blind people's eyes.

Professor Ivan Schwab of the University of California at Davis and colleagues took cornea cells from the healthy eye of patients or from relatives.

They used them to grow tissue containing stem cells – mother cells which can grow into other types of tissue.

Six people, three blind, received transplants. With five of them the transplant survived.

Professor Schwab said that, while few of the patients regained full sight, this was because recipients often had other conditions.



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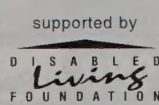
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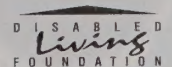
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Bringing the community together



DN

DN gives a round-up of some of the disability stories that have appeared in the media over the past few weeks

Resuscitation call

Junior doctors must not decide to allow patients to die without senior support, the British Medical Association (BMA) has said.

At its annual representative meeting the BMA also pledged to consider whether compulsory written consent allowing "do not resuscitate" (DNR) orders should be required from the patient.

The move came after the meeting heard that junior doctors were pressurized by

nurses into issuing DNR orders.

GP registrar Alex Freeman said: "Far too many DNR decisions are made by unsupervised junior doctors."

Worries about DNR came to the fore in May after a 67-year-old cancer patient only found out that DNR had been written in her medical notes once she had left hospital. Jill Baker of Portsmouth had not discussed this with her doctor.

The meeting also decided that age discrimination should

be tackled in the NHS.

Sally Greengross, director general of Age Concern England, said: "We are delighted that the BMA has taken up the issue of resuscitation. Older people are being 'written off' as we speak. Now it is time to take steps to challenge age discrimination."

DN is supporting BCODP's research into DNR (DN, July). Send comments to BCODP, Litchurch Plaza, Litchurch Lane, Derby DE24 8AA.



The write stuff: Richard Gallagher, 11, who was born without arms, won the special needs category of the Parker Prize handwriting competition in June. He controls a pen with a prosthetic.

BBC counters criticism

The BBC has defended itself over police criticism of a programme on care home standards.

Kent Police was taking legal advice as DN went to press to see if it could get back some of the £50,000 it spent on an investigation which followed *MacIntyre Undercover*, presented by undercover reporter Donal MacIntyre.

The programme appeared to show unacceptable treatment of people with learning disabilities at the Brompton Home in Gillingham.

But after police went through 41 hours of untransmitted footage detectives decided there were few grounds for action.

A spokesperson for the force

said: "When we started out we expected from what we had seen to be able to charge some people with substantial offences, but by the end the result was two cautions for minor assault."

The police force was also writing to the Broadcasting Standards Commission, criticising the programme.

But a spokesperson for the BBC said: "The BBC stands by this *MacIntyre Undercover* programme. The decision to launch a criminal investigation was one that was taken by Kent Police. We set out to highlight a social concern."

The BBC and MacIntyre are also taking legal advice about allegations made by the police and a Sunday newspaper over the programme.

Vaccine news

Campaigners have welcomed the Government's decision to pay extra compensation to children who become disabled after routine vaccinations.

One-off payments to newly disabled children will more than double to £100,000, while over 900 children who received payments of £10-40,000 under a system set up in 1979 will get lump sums of up to £67,000. The degree of disability qualifying children for payment will be relaxed from 80 to 60 per cent.

Anne Coote, founder of Justice Awareness Basic Support (JABS), said: "This decision is a step forward, but we don't feel it has gone far enough. There are still a lot of children who won't qualify even though they were damaged by vaccines."

Honours in disability field

The Queen's birthday brought more honours to people working in the area of disability.

John Wall CBE, chairman of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, becomes a knight, and Deirdre Fordham, recently retired from the Disability Policy Division of the Department for Education and Employment, gets a CBE.

An OBE goes to Sarah Langton-Lockton of the Centre for Accessible Environments, Laura Read of Deafblind UK and Su Sayer of United Response. Others receiving OBEs are Patricia Bennett of Disability Sport England for services to swimming, Wendy Crockett, special education

needs coordinator at Alderman Blaxill School in Colchester, and Elizabeth Seddon of Elmtree School, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, for special needs education.

Thirty-five people in the field receive MBES. They include Jane Campbell of the National Centre for Independent Living who is a member of the Disability Rights Commission, Valerie Wood-Gaiger, founder of the Countrywide Workshops Charitable Trust, Brian Howard of the travel information charity Tripscope, and David Phillips of Holiday Care for his work with the Dome's advisory group on accessibility.

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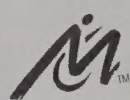
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Education costs

New statistics revealing the high costs of educating increasing numbers of children with special needs in mainstream schools have led to calls for a national inquiry.

A report* by John Marks at the Centre for Policy Studies, published in June, found that one in five children in mainstream schools is now on a special needs register. This is twice as many as ten years ago and costs an estimated £7.1bn a year.

In a letter to *The Times* newspaper Joanne Rule, chief executive of the British Dyslexia Association, said she supported an inquiry into special needs funding.

"Previous studies have concentrated on reducing overall budgets by capping provision rather than investigating the most cost-effective approaches to reducing need," she said.

*What Are Special Educational Needs? An Analysis of a New Growth Industry, £7.50, tel: 020 7222 4488.

New research shows that black and Asian disabled people are "doubly invisible". Sally Brown investigates

Double whammy

A new report by Coventry University and the Council of Disabled People (CDP) in Warwickshire shows that black and Asian disabled people face a double exclusion from the services they need.

*Double Invisibility** found that many black and Asian disabled people feel excluded by local authorities and charities because these are predominantly run by white and middle-class people.

At the same time, many also feel excluded from their own community groups, which tend not to cater for disabled members.

Maureen Hirsch, report co-author and senior lecturer in sociology at Coventry University, believes the problem is nationwide. "Greater London Action on Disability

'Service providers still don't recognise that the cultural needs of black disabled people may be different to those of white disabled people'

carried out a survey which had similar findings, recently enough to suggest that this is a widespread phenomenon."

As part of *Double Invisibility*, Warwickshire CDP organised a conference of black disabled service users and professionals. A national forum for black disabled people was set up to campaign for more relevant service provision.

Martin Banton, worker at Warwickshire CDP's Black Disability Action group and co-author of *Double Invisibility*, says: "It has taken five years of campaigning to reach this point. Service providers still don't recognise that the cultural needs of black disabled people may be different to those of white disabled people."

The *Double Invisibility* report surveyed 180 black or Asian disabled people living in Warwickshire and found they were not getting the services they required from mainstream statutory health, employment and social services.

Sajida Bashir, commissioning project officer of the Black Community Disability Project for children with learning difficulties in Sheffield, has found similar problems. For example, many Asian disabled people and their families are not getting respite or day care as they are unable to attend mixed-sex centres on religious or cultural grounds and single-

sex provision is not available.

She says: "Service providers then interpret the low take-up as a lack of interest, when really it's because the service is inappropriate."

The Sathi Project, west London, was set up to provide advocacy and ensure Asian families of disabled children have access to services.

"People who can put their case forward better seem to get better services – that would require English as a first language and some knowledge of those services," says project co-ordinator Avan Engineer.

Lack of access to information about services also means many Asian disabled people struggle on low incomes or are dependent on their families.

Other problems include inappropriate use of family members as interpreters and a lack of guidelines for home visitors on culturally sensitive behaviour. Careworkers may not always be aware of the religious needs of Hindus, for example, who are not supposed to eat before bathing, or Muslims, who must be able to pray several times a day.

According to Maureen Hirsch, this lack of awareness can also be found in charities. "One well-known mental health organisation's local branch told our researchers that 'black people have the same needs as white'. That kind of colour-blind approach still exists."

Asian Disability Network Bradford, tel: 01274 224444.

Asian People's Disability Alliance, tel: 020 8961 6773.

Black Community Disability Project, Sheffield, tel: 0114 273 5141.

Black Disability Action, Council of Disabled People, Room 6, Koco Building, The Arches Industrial Estate, Spon End, Coventry, Warwickshire, tel: 02476 675802, e-mail: banton@mcmil.com

Sathi Project, tel: 020 8572 6812.

For details of Language Line (a phone interpreting service for statutory and voluntary organisations), call the Scope helpline, tel: 0800 800 3333.

Sense Black and Asian Family Network, tel: 020 7272 7774.



Seldom seen: A rare example of a "visible" black disabled person – Dave Crowl (centre front) at a recent Scope campaign launch

Disability equality consultant Sid Jeewa, author of a Scope report on ethnicity and disability**, believes disability charities should take steps to avoid "institutionalised racism". He argues that organisations like Scope should positively promote access to their services among disabled people from ethnic minority groups.

"To be fair to Scope, there is

work going on at local level regarding black disability issues," he says. "But there is no formal commitment at the top. An organisation that should be representing all disabled people is actually excluding some people because of this."

Deafblind charity Sense has tried to address the problem.

The Sense Black and Asian Family Network was set up following an external audit aimed at improving the charity's accessibility to people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

The *Double Invisibility* research also found that many black and Asian people are "invisible" in their own communities.

"Many Afro-Caribbean and Asian groups largely ignored the needs of disabled people within their own communities because of the stigma of disability," says Maureen Hirsch.

Sajida Bashir agrees: "Disability does carry a stigma in some communities. It is often looked down on."

Whatever the reasons for the exclusion of black and Asian people, action to meet their needs is long overdue, they believe.

It seems that until organisations – black and white, statutory and voluntary – set their houses in order, disabled people from ethnic minority backgrounds will continue to struggle without access to the financial, social and health services they urgently require.

* £5, Council of Disabled People, Room 6, Koco Building, The Arches Industrial Estate, Spon End, Coventry.

** Ethnicity, Disability and Scope – the Case for Embracing Disability Issues, October 1998, tel: 020 7619 7340.

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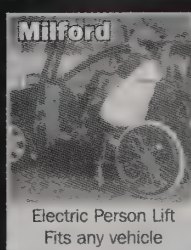
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Junior athletes topple records

The rain came down in Blackpool at the Disability Sport England BT National Junior Athletics, 1-2 July, but it wasn't enough to dampen the competitors' enthusiasm. The conditions didn't help the 300 athletes aged 12-20, but good performances meant 34 national records were smashed.

Among the best performers were Sarah Loughran, who broke national records in the 100m and 200m; Michelle Lewis in the 1500m and 2000m; Joe Myers in the 100m and 200m; Lloyd Upsdell, who set a new national record in the 200m; and Brian Alldis in the 1500m.



Recordbreaker: Lloyd Upsdell who set a new national 200m record

Golfers get star support

International golfer Nick Faldo hosted a special clinic for members of the English Blind Golf Association (EBGA) at Chart Hills Golf Club, Biddenden, Kent, on 3 July.

Faldo, who is a patron of the EBGA, passed on tips and techniques to six of the country's top blind golfers and their sighted caddies, as well as to six budding blind youngsters.

• Blind golfer Jeremy Cookson from Hedge End, Hampshire, won both the Chairman's Cup on 18 June and the English Strokeplay Championship, 29-30 June, in his first full season with the EBGA.

For more information about the association, write to EBGA, 99 St Barnabas Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 7BT, tel/fax: 020 8505 2085, e-mail: enquiries@blindgolf.co.uk, website: www.blindgolf.co.uk



Wonderful wheels: The Liverpool International Road Race on Wheels takes place on 30 July. Disabled and non-disabled competitors, including Paralympic athlete Tanni Grey-Thompson (above right), will take part in five fun rides. Tel: 0151 733 7255.

GB's swimming smash

Great Britain's swimmers produced an emphatic performance in the BT Five Nations Challenge swimming event in Sheffield in June.

The British squad claimed an outstanding 19,481 points from 20 events, beating the Australians' 18,296. Each country sent ten swimmers.

World records fell to Emma

Mounkley (Stockport) in the S14 50m butterfly and 50m freestyle; David Roberts (Pontypridd) in the S7 100m freestyle; Danielle Watts (Alton) in the S2 50m backstroke; James Anderson (Broxburn) in the S2 50m backstroke; and James Crisp (Nottingham) in the S9 100m backstroke.

Texas golds

A British ex-services team won 19 golds at the 20th annual Paralysed Veterans of America Wheelchair Games in Texas, 1-10 July, in which Puerto Rico also participated. Great Britain came second. For more details, contact Edwin Thomas, tel: 01326 318780.

Upcoming events

Youth sport: The final of the BAA Millennium Youth Games, including disabled competitors, takes place 17-20 August in Southampton. Over 7,000 11-15-year-olds are expected to take part in events including athletics, basketball, football and hockey. For more details, tel: 020 7273 1592.

Clay pigeon shooting: The Kibworth Championships take place on 5 August at Kibworth, Leicestershire. Tel: 01788 890219. For details of the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association Disabled Shooters Group, tel: 01949 843152 after 10am.

Chess: The Ron Banwell MSO Masters, including disabled players, takes place in London, 20-28 August. Get further details from the London Chess Association, MSO, 51 Borough Way, Potters Bar EN6 3HA.

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Building a better future

Are you angry about access? The Part M building regulation review could be a chance to change things, says Rod Hermeston

Disability groups are getting very excited about the letter M at the moment.

That is because the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions is beginning a review of Part M of the Building Regulations. Part M sets out minimum standards for disability access features like ramps and disabled toilets in new buildings and extensions in existing buildings. The review covers buildings other than houses.

A survey sent out to disability groups and individuals in June asks how Part M should be changed.

Even though we now have the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), Part M is still important because it looks set to be a benchmark for standards, says Marie Pye, joint head of policy at the Disability Rights Commission (DRC).

The DDA will require service providers to make reasonable physical changes to buildings by 2004. The DRC is currently consulting on a code of practice for this.

Pye says: "It is likely buildings will be considered to be reasonable in terms of the DDA if they conformed to Part M of the Building Regulations at the time they were built."

But campaigners agree that Part M is inadequate at the moment.

For a start, its definition of disability is too narrow, focusing on wheelchair users, those with walking problems, and people with visual and hearing impairments.

Alun Francis, access officer at disability charity RADAR, says: "It should include all disabled people."

RADAR also wants Part M to cover all buildings. While it was extended to new dwellings in 1999 – it had previously covered only new non-domestic premises – it still does not apply to existing buildings.

Nor does it cover things like lighting, tactile surfaces, colour contrast, way finding such as signage, or external features like car parks. Campaigners say it should.

And they want Part M to reflect other building standards, too.

The British Standards Institute (BSI) is developing new optional standards for buildings based on research carried out



New dimension: James Hallam tests his reach for RFA research

by the design consultancy Robert Feeney Associates (RFA) between 1996 and 1999. RFA's research involved disabled people using ramps, stairs, toilets, doorways and bathrooms. Trials involving up to 300 people per test used ergonomic research techniques to measure characteristics like reach, space and movement.

Feeney says: "The prime object was to fill in the gaps in our knowledge about the requirements of disabled people."

The research will tell designers what percentage of people they are designing for by choosing a particular standard for a feature, such as the steepness of a ramp.

Francis says: "We want to see the BSI dimensions going into both Part M and the code of practice for 2004 under the DDA."

Such consistency would reduce the risk of people wriggling out of DDA cases by meeting a lower Part M standard.

At the moment there are

problems with the way Part M is implemented because building inspectors are making their own interpretations of what meets the regulations.

Michael Page, principal disability consultant with the Royal National Institute for Deaf People's Disability Consultancy Service, says: "We see ramps that are too steep. We see handrails not given proper consideration, and wheelchair-accessible toilets where you cannot get the wheelchair in."

What has really got disabled people cross about the Part M consultation is the question-

But architect and wheelchair user Andrew Walker says: "If a non-disabled person was asked what was more important, a door or a bathroom, they would think 'What planet are these people on?'"

So there are areas of contention. There is also doubt about whether we need Part M as a separate document at all.

Walker says: "The whole thing is ridiculous. It is like reading something out of another age. It should be integrated into the main regulations as with Scotland, so that we are not seen as something special."

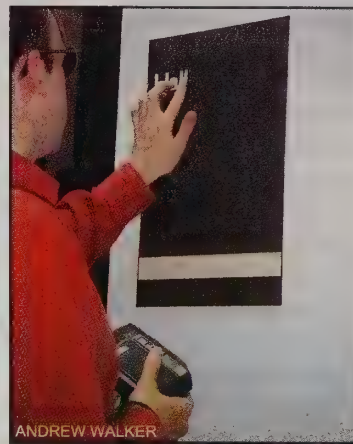
Tim Pope, policy and administration supervisor at the Joint Mobility Unit, says: "Perhaps what we should have is guidance on best practice which can evolve easily over time, because we will not get another chance to review this for ten years."

The Government seems to be serious about taking the views of disabled people on board. It has announced a special committee to advise on disability access to buildings (*see news*).

But campaigners will be busy trying to ensure that whatever form Part M takes, it reflects the needs of disabled people.

Part M consultation, tel: 020 7485 6275. Closes 31 August.

DDA consultation, tel: 08457 622633. Closes 8 August.



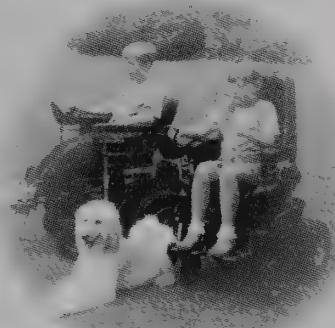
Should Part M include signage?

naire asking them to rank access features such as accessible toilets, bedrooms and restaurants (DN, July). The Government says this is to find out people's priorities for existing buildings where not everything can be done.

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One extreme, not the other

It is far better to put up with over-the-top political correctness than to swing the other way, says writer Allan Sutherland



If there's one subject that makes the average reactionary old fart splutter into his bedtime cocoa, it's political correctness. All those imaginary loony-left councils where nobody is allowed to drink racist white coffee, the libraries are full of herstory books and the guy with a can of Tennants in his hand isn't drunk, just sobriety-deprived.

I mention these nonsenses because PC is back in the news, with a disability spin. Walsall job centre told two businessmen not to advertise for "hardworking and enthusiastic" staff, as the terms could breach the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). Bit over the top maybe? Well, perhaps. But the

story got major coverage in the *Sun* and *Mirror* among others.

Employment Secretary David Blunkett intervened personally, showing the Government's tendency to jump on any passing bandwagon. (You know how it is: you wait all year for a bandwagon, and then three come along at once.)

But we've never really had a 'problem with political correctness. I've been told off, humorously but firmly, while doing some photocopying at Camden Council, for saying "master copies" when I should have said "top copies" or "originals". There used to be quite a lot of that sort of stuff around. But even when such extremity was at its height, we never had anything like the situation in some US universities, where academics could be fired if student bullies took umbrage.

It's a phoney issue, kept alive by the kind of *Daily Telegraph* reader who makes Hitler look like a mad liberal, and tabloid journalists too lazy to come up with stories that deal with

anything serious.

You have to remember that anyone who attacks political correctness is defending discrimination. Issues like racism, sexism and discrimination against disabled people are important. It's not the people who get a touch over-earnest we have to worry about; it's the bigots who attack those who try to get things right.

In the Walsall case, job centre boss Jonathan Steve was quoted, in a hostile *Mirror* article, as saying "one person's interpretation of 'hardworking and enthusiastic' might be open to debate. The words should be specific not subjective so we match the best jobseeker to the job." That's good practice, and I think David Blunkett should have had the guts to defend it.

It's no coincidence that we get this story just as the DDA is starting to bite. I think we're going to see a lot of attacks on the DDA by people who want to keep discriminating.

Many of us fought hard for the DDA. Now we have to fight to protect it.

Riding high

Michael Welch is so pleased he got back on a bike



I used to love cycling. When I was about 20, however, my balance began to deteriorate with the onset of cerebellar ataxia. I'm now 40 and use a wheelchair about half the time.

I had always hankered to get back into the saddle. About three years ago, I heard about a scheme run in Bushy Park, near Hampton Court, called Companion Cycling. Adapted bikes are loaned to disabled people who are then piloted through this lovely park by a companion. I really enjoyed it, but as the park is about 15 miles away, my visits had to be very occasional.

Then I met someone who races tricycles and I bought one from him.

My father took it to my ground-floor flat in London,

where I keep it locked up outside my kitchen window. I live in Pimlico which, fortunately, is nice and flat.

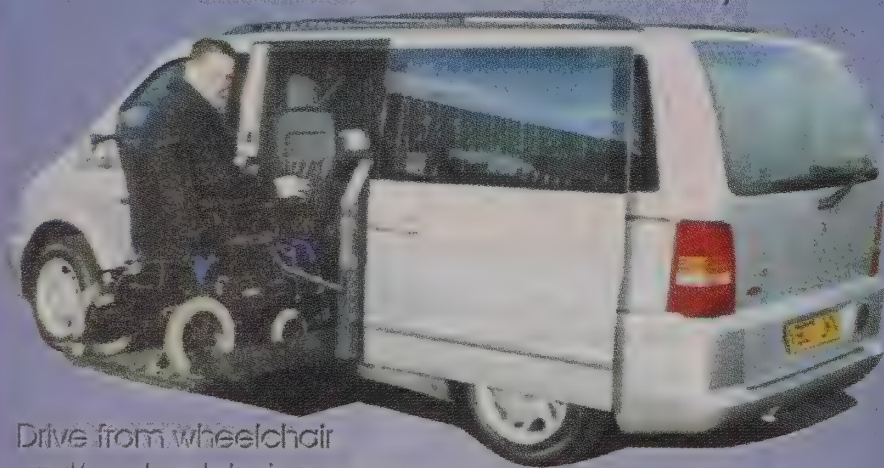
My tricycle has really improved my quality of life. I work part-time in a government office about three-quarters of a mile away and cycle there. I can visit friends and do shopping (I can put quite a few groceries in the box on the back). There are also the benefits of fresh air, exercise and kindness to the environment.

And it is amazing how it brings out the best in people. Rarely does a day pass without a good-natured comment from a pedestrian – even if it's just a request for an ice cream cone!

The cycling charity Sustrans opened its 5,000-mile National Cycle Network in June. See Out and about, *DN*, September. London Cycling Campaign, tel: 020 7928 7220. Companion Cycling, tel: 020 8979 2003.

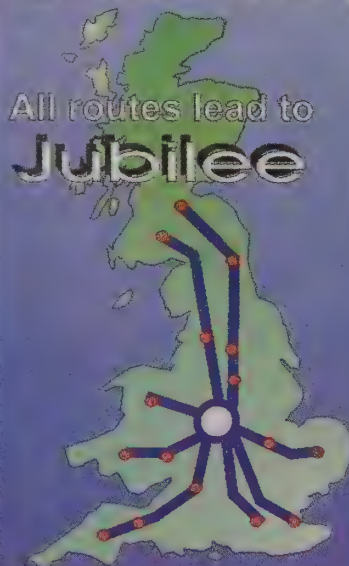
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Radio producer Mark Turnbull is not into “whingeing” about disability – he’s made his impression in other ways. Rod Hermeston went to talk to him

Mark Turnbull is a big bloke who has achieved big things.

Mark, who has been blind since birth, is a producer with BBC Radio Cleveland, where I meet him. He is also a recent president of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ).

It was a role for a figurehead. “Or in my case a pisshead,” he jokes.

Mark lists two of his interests as eating and drinking and uses the word “f**k” a lot. Laddishness aside, it’s clear that every stone of him has a right to be there.

His most recent coup was to be elected to the steering committee of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) in May.

“It’s a bigger stage for a bigger man,” he quips.

As a producer for Radio Cleveland’s breakfast show, Mark, 37, has to ensure that he

‘I see it is as my business to go out and tell schoolkids who have a disability what can be done, because I have not had my spirit cracked by society’

is always aware of the next day’s news. It’s a pretty senior role.

Yet his beginnings did not bode well. His dad left his mother Julia, a pub landlady, when he was just six weeks old; he was unable to cope with a blind child.

“Mum brought me up on her own and was always prepared to back me,” he says. He still lives with her.

An early love of radio led to broadcasting ambitions.

“I love the way radio can take you away from the world you are in,” he says.

But careers teachers were negative about these ambitions.

“So many opportunities are denied you and so many obstacles are put in your way because of prejudice,” he says.

Even so, he went on to get training in print journalism from the Press Association and then did court and sports reporting.

“I was always trying to avoid the stereotypes of basket weaving and piano tuning,” he explains.

He would cover the major snooker and darts events using a TV Braille shorthand at 120 words a minute helped.

It took him 11 years to get into radio. BBC Radio Cleveland discouraged him from applying for a job ten years ago because he could not drive, he says.

So he confronted the station about this on one of its phone-in programmes. “I said: ‘I’m a good journalist. Why have you turned me down?’”

Six months later the station offered him work using money from an equal opportunities budget.

“The first day was bloody awful. Hardly anybody spoke to me. I went home and thought ‘I’m not working there’. But then I decided I’d show what I could do and started coming up with ideas for programmes.”

Since then he has worked as a reporter, presenter and producer.

His manager and another presenter were very supportive, helping to check his scripts.

“I think I’ve proved myself and I work with a fantastic group of people,” he says.

Mark is in a position to campaign for disabled people, but that is not entirely his style. He doesn’t like to hear disabled people “whingeing”.

As he says: “I was denied

Making his Mark



Bullish attitude: Mark Turnbull got his Radio Cleveland job “through determination not whingeing”

access to the medium I loved for 11 years. I got here through determination not through whingeing. Whingeing is a state of hopelessness.”

But before the entire disability movement starts reaching for its pen, he does believe in the right to equal opportunities, and let’s bear in mind what he actually does.

“I see it as my business to go out and tell schoolkids who have a disability what can be done, because I have not had

my spirit cracked by society,” he says.

In a recent programme he sent a reporter out in a wheelchair to show listeners what it is like.

The determination that got him his job still fires him. As president of the NUJ between 1998 and 1999, he travelled 350,000 miles all over the world, talking about issues relevant to journalists. He believes in fairness and he opposes low pay and poor conditions for anybody.

As far as his EFJ election is concerned, he says: “I’m hoping it will give me a European stage to show that blindness is no handicap.”

But the main role of the EFJ is to tackle issues affecting journalists on a European level. It liaises with the European Parliament and Commission, for instance.

What next for Mark? He’s unlikely to chain himself to any buildings, but he will be out there showing the world what can be done.



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Constables

Nice exhibition, shame about the venue. That's Douglas Campbell's verdict on this year's Mobility Roadshow

It would be easy to fill the whole of *DN* with what there was to see at the Mobility Roadshow at Donington Park, Derby, in June.

There was certainly something for every visitor. There was the tiny Canta (from £7,371, tel: 01484 683193), a huge articulated lorry and everything in-between. There were lifts, hoists and ramps. Wheelchairs and scooters had arrived by the truckload.

Most importantly, there were lots of people only too happy to answer questions and discuss individual mobility problems.

Getting to the show was easy, with permanent signposts

Something for everyone

that are much easier to follow than the smaller temporary sort. I didn't see the congestion that always seems to plague the Crowthorne venue.

The real problems arose after you arrived. Despite excellent help from the many drivers of accessible buses and a fleet of Chairman vehicles from Gowrings to move people across the area, the site was just too spread out.

The indoor stands showing wheelchairs and some conversions were in one rather gloomy hall next to a much livelier information hall.

The outdoor stands were in the paddock, which was spacious and welcoming, with people arranging test-drives in a range of vehicles.

The distance between the two sections of the show was maybe



Pretty in purr-ple: one of the Jaguars at the Jim Doran stand

only 400m as the crow flies. The problem was that not many crows were visiting.

The wind blew steadily across the actual route of around 700m. For anyone who walked slowly and for people in manual wheelchairs without a pusher this was at least 500m too far.

I arrived early each day and parked on a hard surface, guided by superb stewards. Other visitors said they had to park on less suitable surfaces.

The toilets were much more evenly located than at Crowthorne, and the queues seemed shorter. The catering also worked well. It could, of course, be that these aspects were easier because there were

fewer visitors than usual.

Now to the most important bit – the roadshow exhibits.

Vauxhall was showing its brand-new Agila, a neat, five-door car with good potential for space at the back. What a pity it is only available with

manual transmission.

From £6,995 on the road, tel: 0800 731 5267.

Autochair had its latest parking control device on show. Designed for ASDA, it has a firm but friendly voice reminding drivers they are using a space reserved for disabled customers. Let's hope it works. Otherwise Autochair may need to develop my idea for a laser gun that destroys the offending cars! *Autochair*, tel: 01629 813493.

Everywhere I looked I saw Renault Kangooos. Gowrings, Brotherwood and Constables all offer a variation of this van-style vehicle to carry a passenger in a wheelchair. I had a ride in a Gowring conversion and was impressed with the ease of use and my comfort as a wheelchair passenger. £12,495, *Gowrings*, tel: 01635 529500. *Brotherwood*, tel: 01935 872603. *Constables*, tel: 01323 767574.

Lodgesons and Reselco were



Taxi! Andrew Overton helps Don Atkinson into a new "black" cab



Unusual green: Maureen Appley tries out the new-style VW Beetle

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both showing new infrared units to operate the lights and other auxiliary switches without you needing to take your hand off the steering ball. They were big improvements on the units made just a few years ago. *Lodgesons*, £443 including installation, tel: 0800 052 0028. *Reselco*, £540 including installation, tel: 020 8847 4509.

LVC Mobility was showing its Superdrive hand controls. The push-pull brake and accelerator are much neater than most, are remarkably cheap, and have a lifetime warranty if they are properly fitted, serviced and used. £185 including fitting, tel: 01246 825423.

Much interest was shown in the new Volkswagen Beetle, which was on show in a most unusual green. I find the retro-styling fascinating but highly impractical for modern driving. From £14,950, tel: 0800 711811.

London Taxis International was displaying the latest model of the "black" cab – in brilliant yellow. It has a built-in folding ramp in place of the portable



Try that for size: a Vauxhall rep shows Doug Campbell the space in the back of the new Agila

ramps that were so unpopular with cabbies, plus an extension in case there is no kerb. Why can't more towns introduce this type of cab? It extends public transport to many more people. Tel: 024 7657 2000.

Jim Doran attracted much attention on his stand with a pair of adapted Jaguars, one of which was available for test-drives. Tel: 024 7646 0833.

I was surprised by the absence of Rover, supplier of cars to disabled people for many

years. RAC Motoring Services, which provides breakdown recovery for the Motability fleet, was also absent, which sent out a puzzling message to disabled customers.

The show is not just about equipment and advice; it's also a fun day out for all the family. This year was no exception.

Peugeot had demonstrations by experts from Kew Gardens and *Home Front* TV presenter Anne McKevitt, while Ford launched its MAGIC

information service with a juggling magician. MAGIC, tel: 0800 240 241.

The team on the RYA Sailability stand were ready to survive the next great flood with a fully-rigged dinghy publicising sailing for disabled people. Tel: 023 8062 7432.

The Wonderful Wheels Exhibition on the Saturday was a display of interesting vehicles driven by disabled people, including motorbikes, cars and even a huge articulated truck. Particularly interesting was Peter Griffiths from Bristol with his Honda Fireblade 900 motorcycle.

Peter broke his back ten



MARTIN JENKINSON

It's not all about cars: Lin Elder in the RYA Sailability's dinghy

years ago in a motorcycle accident but was determined to get back on a bike. He set about designing a stabilising system that would keep him upright when he came to a halt. He has spent the last four years perfecting a unique system to get the bike legal for road use, working along a similar design to aircraft landing equipment.

The brakes and gear controls that are usually operated by foot have been moved to the handlebar, so with his feet securely fixed to quick-release footplates, Peter is able to ride

the bike on the open road.

This year's show may have had its drawbacks, but everyone I met was enjoying their visit and getting the information they wanted.

The next Mobility Roadshow is in Crowthorne, Berkshire, 15-17 June 2001. Watch this space.

For further information on exhibitors, visit the website: www.justmobility.co.uk/roadshow/exhibitors/index.htm Douglas Campbell is executive director of the Disabled Drivers' Association.

Meeting all customers' needs



Fiat inspired the first day of the Mobility Roadshow with a pledge to get disabled people mobile and independent.

"We are convinced that not only is it extremely useful socially, but it is also consistent with the true vocation of a business," Paolo Cantarella, chief executive of Fiat SpA, told the Mobility for All conference, one of several Fiat is organising in Europe. "The more effectively we pursue our trade, the more capable we become in meeting our customers' needs. All of our customers."

Fiat's Autonomy programme, begun six years ago in Fiat Auto, now extends to its buses, trains, agricultural machinery, automotive systems and services, and the research centre. But Mr Cantarella pointed out that technology alone cannot produce an integrated and accessible transport system. He called for government support.

"Mobility is no longer a minority issue that governments can ignore," said Minister for Transport, Lord Macdonald of Tradeston. The proportion of older people is set to rise to 20-30 per cent over the next 50 years, he said, and two-thirds of disabled people are elderly. The Government is "firmly on course" to make public transport accessible and is working with local authorities to promote barrier-free pedestrian facilities.

Expert panel members Peter Barker (Royal National Institute for the Blind), Andrew Braddock (London Transport), Douglas Campbell (Disabled Drivers' Association), Ann Frye (Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions) and Bert Massie (Disability Rights Commission) fielded questions from public transport providers and motoring organisations about such things as the cost of running rural transport, lack of regulation for vehicle adaptations and who pays for "cross-sector benefits". But no other manufacturers were there.

Later, Bert Massie said: "I'm pleased the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders was represented and I hope he takes the message back, because eventually someone has got to come up with a car that is designed for people and it will put the rest out of business."

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The who, when and how of DLA

Over 50 per cent of people who should be receiving the care component of Disability Living Allowance are not claiming it, says Mike Hurdiss, as he starts a new five-part benefits series

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is the main benefit designed to help with the extra costs of disability.

It is paid irrespective of income or savings and whether or not you are working. It helps to level the playing field between disabled people and non-disabled people.

DLA can be claimed from birth up until a person's 65th birthday and you can go on getting it over 65 if you already have it. At the moment the mobility component of DLA can only be claimed from the age of four years and nine months, with payment from age five. From April 2001 the higher-rate mobility component will be payable for three and four-year-olds.

DLA payments vary from £14.20 to £90.95 a week depending on the need for care and the nature of walking difficulty. DLA is not taxable and, because it is generally disregarded as income, it is paid in addition to, rather than being offset against, other benefits. Special rules apply to people in residential or nursing care.

Let's start by dispelling a few myths. You don't have to be a wheelchair user to claim DLA and you needn't have a carer living with you. It's not a question of what help you



DLA gains: Maggie and John O'Keefe had been underclaiming DLA to the tune of £67.75 per week for a number of years. With Maggie now in receipt of the highest rate of the care component, she and John will benefit from the Disability Income Guarantee from April 2001.

actually get, but of what help you reasonably need.

The care component may be awarded if you need:

- help with "bodily functions", such as seeing, walking and going to the toilet;
- help in preparing a main meal if you are 16 or over;
- supervision to avoid substantial danger to yourself or others.

The higher-rate care component is paid to severely disabled people and is automatically awarded if death is expected within six months.

The mobility component is generally payable to people who are unable or virtually

unable to walk or who need guidance or supervision most of the time when using unfamiliar routes. It can also be payable in cases of severe sensory or mental impairment.

There are three rates of the care component and two rates of the mobility component.

Evidence suggests many disabled people could be getting less DLA than they are entitled to. Many people are afraid of losing what they already have by asking for a higher rate. If you are in doubt, seek advice. It is encouraging that about a third of reviews and half of DLA appeals are successful.

Entitlement to DLA may open the door to other support.

For example, out-of-work parents with a disabled child getting a DLA care component of £14.20 could see a weekly increase in Income Support of £22.25 thanks to a disabled child premium.

From October 2000, working parents on a low income will benefit from the addition of a disabled child's allowance to the new Working Families' Tax Credit. The new allowance will be worth £22.25 for each disabled child. If your existing award of Working Families' Tax Credit comes up for

renewal before then and you have a disabled child, it may be worth getting advice to see if you should delay your claim.

A disabled person living alone and getting the middle rate of the care component could see an Income Support increase of £40.20, with the payment of a severe disability premium, provided no one receives Invalid Care Allowance for caring for them. The overall effect of a DLA award in such cases can sometimes be a doubling of weekly income.

From April 2001, receipt of the highest rate of the DLA care component will allow severely disabled children and adults to benefit from the new Disability Income Guarantee. The parents of severely disabled children and severely disabled adults who receive means-tested benefits such as Income Support will see a weekly increase of £5.75 (£8.30 for a couple).

For disabled people thinking of entering work, receipt of DLA may be the key to gaining the new Disabled Person's Tax Credit and/or retaining some entitlement to housing and council tax benefits.

Getting DLA often makes extra support available, such as access to a vehicle through the Motability scheme, and increased financial support via the Disabled Facilities Grant.

You can claim DLA by filling in leaflet DS704, available from post offices and social security offices. You will be sent form DLA1 to complete, giving details of your needs. Some people may have a medical examination. Claim packs are also available from the Benefits Enquiry Line, tel: 0800 882200. Mike Hurdiss is a benefits policy officer at Scope. He cannot enter into individual correspondence.

- You can get benefits information from Citizen's Advice Bureaux. Tel: 020 7833 2181 to find your nearest one.
- Factsheets are available on the Department of Social Security, National Association of Citizen's Advice Bureaux and Disability Alliance websites: www.dss.gov.uk; www.adviceguide.org.uk; www.disabilityalliance.org
- The DLA Guide and Checklist, £3.50, is available, post free, from the Disability Alliance, Publications, Universal House, 88-94 Wentworth Street, London E1 7SA.

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Get your own home sweet home

Moving away from parents is a daunting step, but Dan Batten has a few handy hints if you're ready to move on

As much as we may love our parents, most of us reach the point, eventually, when it's time to leave the nest.

Whether it's heading off to university or moving into a flat of your own, going it alone can be a major challenge.

The trials of independent living can be even greater if you are disabled. University accommodation, for example, isn't known for being disability friendly. And rather than being able to get used to things by living in a shared house, your first place is likely to be on your own. Most shared houses are just not accessible.

What with most housing on the market, new and old, being relatively inaccessible, and rents

early move gave him extra confidence.

"There's no way I could have lived at home after the freedom I had at college," says Michael. "It hasn't been fun all the way, and I've had a few nightmare situations. But it's all been worth it in the end."

One headache was finding the right carer. "One person looked horrified when I asked to be pushed to the pub, and was dumbstruck when I plonked a straw in my pint."

what are your choices? One is to get on to your local authority and housing associations' waiting lists as early as you can. Priority is given to people with specific housing needs and the application form will ask you to say what yours are. Waiting lists for these properties are long, so be prepared to be patient and to persevere. Make any specific needs you have absolutely clear from the outset to avoid being shown places

that aren't right for you.

It is definitely worth waiting for "social" or local authority housing as rent levels are relatively low and you will have access to council maintenance services as a council tax payer. As a tenant you may also subsequently have the right to buy at a substantial discount or enter into a shared ownership deal, where you pay part mortgage, part rent.

The other option is to go for a private letting, but be

extremely cautious here. The letting may only be short term, so it would be pointless installing any equipment you need (even if the landlord lets you). The other major obstacle is the cost. Rent can stretch people on decent wages, let alone those on low incomes.

Once you're in a place, you need to sort out what help you need. With some local authorities, most of your needs may be met by council-provided social care services. If not, try going to private care agencies and applying for funding.

If your needs are relatively minor – you need help with shaving, for example – get friends' assistance if you can. Well-trained mates can solve many problems!

When it comes to going it alone, you may find that some of the biggest pluses can also be the biggest minuses.

For example, after years of living in close quarters with your family, not having anyone to share things with can be a bit lonely. It's a good idea to have a friend visit regularly at the start to ease yourself in gently. But, remember, your friends have their own life, too.

And you do as well now – so enjoy it!

'It might be a bore thinking about where you'll be living in a year's time, but an early start will stand you in good stead'

for private lettings and house prices currently high enough to make the Sultan of Brunei wince, you could be forgiven for thinking "Why bother?"

But negativity gets you nowhere in the housing game. If you plan far enough in advance and are completely honest with yourself and others about your needs, you are more likely to get what you require than if you leave things to chance. It might be a bore to start thinking about where you'll be living in a year's time when you've just torn the L-plates off your mum's car, but an early start will stand you in good stead.

Michael O' Keeffe was 18 when he decided that he wanted to attend residential college in Coventry, which meant moving away from his family in London.

After his studies, Michael, who has cerebral palsy, decided going back to mum wasn't for him and opted to stay in Coventry. He is still there, living independently with support from carers. He believes his

But, if you're prepared to face that kind of challenge, where do you start looking for a home?

"If you need support to live independently, go straight to your nearest social services department office," says Rebecca Stearne, community support worker at Mind in Stockport. "They will probably pass you on to your local housing department, but it is vital that you contact them first. If you make a request, they have a responsibility to assess you and make sure the needs found in their assessment are met."

It's also worth remembering that you will have to meet the eligibility criteria set by local authorities, so familiarise yourself with them before you ask for your assessment.

With an assessment done,

- *Leaving Home, Moving On*, a guide to housing options for people with learning disabilities, is published by the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities. Free, tel: 020 7535 7420 or visit the website: www.mhf.org.uk
- Independent Living Alternatives, tel: 020 8906 9265.
- The charity John Grooms provides support for independent living, tel: 020 7452 2000.
- Disabled Living Foundation, tel 020 7289 6111.
- National Centre for Independent Living, tel: 020 7587 1663.
- Your local authority details will be in the phone book.



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Access to postal services

As the recently appointed chairman of the Postal Services Commission (PSC), I read with interest your article on post office access (*DN*, June).

The legislation which will give the PSC its power is now in its final parliamentary stages before becoming law. It will include a requirement for the PSC to "have regard to the interests of individuals who are disabled or chronically sick".

In addition, the PSC will be responsible for advising the Secretary of State about the number and location of

public post offices.

I am a paraplegic wheelchair user and also chairman of Ricability (Research and Information for Consumers with Disabilities). I can assure you the PSC will be taking its responsibilities on the access front very seriously.
Graham Corbett CBE
 Postal Services Commission
 London SE1 7DB

DN has a new discussion forum and guestbook on its website so you can give your views on anything in the paper – Editor

Tate improves

In response to comments from visitors, steps have been taken to improve things at Tate Modern.

The lifts are now working properly. Permanent signage outside the lifts on every floor now asks visitors to give wheelchairs and buggies priority, and staff have been instructed to monitor the situation. The lifts also have voice announcers.

Display captions are being

rehung more prominently and are available in large print.

There is a CCTV monitor in the study room enabling visitors to enlarge text or images on leaflets, captions and catalogues, and the bookshop allows people to browse books on the CCTV monitor.

For an access leaflet (also in audio format), please ring the box office, tel: 020 7887 8888.
Caro Howell
 Tate Modern, London SE1

Demonising genetics weakens our voice

That disabled protesters at the International Centre for Life in Newcastle wore Nazi uniforms (*DN*, July) disappoints but does not surprise me.

Accusations of Nazi eugenics have become standard fare in disabled people's response to the new human genetics and its technologies. Such diatribes always possess incandescent anger and wild exaggeration. Interestingly, they also reek of self-pity – crips with chips to go. Somebody should have told them that he who has to resort to emotional arguments has lost the intellectual debate.

Using the eugenics argument

in the way of an ideological hand grenade sends everybody scurrying back into their intellectual trenches. Everything then becomes a slanging match, with disabled people arguing shrilly about a eugenics "hidden agenda" behind the new genetics, and the geneticists denying any connection with eugenics ideas.

As a way of not getting things done it can hardly be bettered. It lumps together the whole range of genetics including cloning, prenatal testing and pre-implantation diagnosis as one demonic entity.

It should be stopped now.

Not only does it do a great disservice to geneticists and scientists; it may well prove counterproductive to the disability perspective.

The danger is that Nazi-fixation among some disabled people will lead to all disabled people being dismissed as paranoid fantasists whose views on modern genetic technology can't be taken seriously. Hence the voice of disabled people in the overall genetic debate could be lost – and this would truly be disastrous.

Michael Morgan
 Belfast, Northern Ireland

No back-door euthanasia, please



After reading Margaret Doherty's letter supporting the Medical Treatment (Prevention of Euthanasia) Bill (*DN* June), I feel I must respond.

When Lucy (*above*) was born with severe brain damage ten years ago we were told not to expect her to live beyond six months to three years. She had constant fits and excruciating spasms from head to foot.

I breathed a sigh of relief when doctors told me they were putting her on morphine, as nothing seemed to help her.

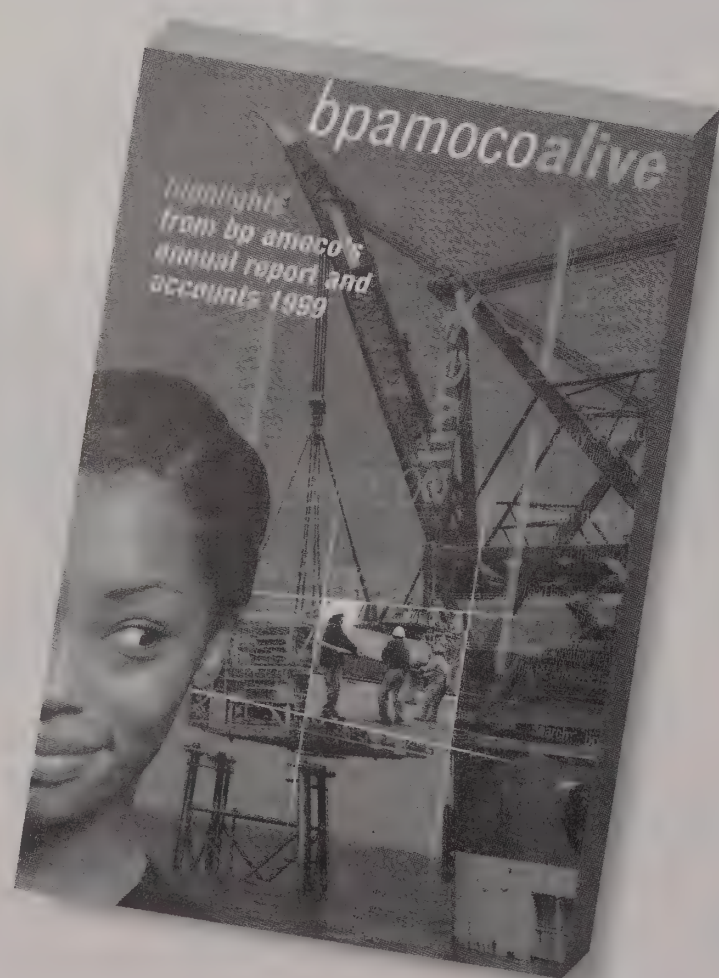
On the day they said she would die, she lay lifeless in my arms. I felt immense relief.

Then Lucy took another breath and carried on breathing. I felt ashamed. I vowed if she could pull this all off and survive, then I would

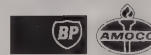
too. I believe now that Lucy's life was given back to her to teach me a lesson. I now respect her life as it is what makes her so wonderful. I am so thankful that euthanasia hasn't been passed and, hopefully, never will be.

Wendi Barnes
 Reddith, Worcestershire

I urge all those who want to prevent the march of euthanasia to begin by pressurising their nearest Community Health Council (CHC). As an elected member of the South Tyneside CHC, I stress our willingness to fulfil our statutory duty to be the "public's watchdog", but we need the public to show an interest and be more vociferous.
George R Waddle
 Jarrow, Tyne & Wear



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PC pulse

By Dan Batten

Black Mark(field)

The Markfield Project in north London is looking for volunteers to work with them. Successful applicants will have the chance to work with both "children and children with disabilities". Well, I suppose it's only fair to warn potential volunteers in case their skills at dealing with differing creatures are a bit on the rusty side.

Yobs 1 BA 0

Seven of the alleged football hooligans caught during Euro 2000 had passed medical tests and were claiming disability benefits, a government crack-down on benefit fraud has discovered. Another 31 were claiming Jobseeker's Allowance and should have been at home ready to start work. They face investigation and possible prosecution. But doesn't this look like another belated dive to stop the ball hitting the back of the Benefits Agency's net?

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magic

To be a successful "front-line" worker you need confidence and communication skills. Sally Brown talks to people in "meet and greet" roles

A job that involves dealing with the public requires a combination of skills and personality.

The best customer services staff are fully-rounded people, according to Beverly Dann, Institute of Customer Services' standards and qualifications manager. She sets the occupational standards used for National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) in customer services.

"It's about people having self-confidence and being mature," says Beverly.

Training courses are available, but the best way to hone those customer services skills is to get out and meet the public. Once you are in a post, training is available on the job in the form of NVQ customer services certificates based on ongoing assessment, or from private courses.

David Aguiar, 35, from Essex, already had customer services experience when he applied for the job of host at the Millennium Dome in London. He found the Dome job via Action for Blind People's Workbridge project.

David's tasks include

Working on the front line



Host with the most: David Aguiar's job at the Dome requires a cool head and a friendly manner

providing information, helping to find lost children and supervising the left luggage, cloakroom and play areas.

"This job is really disability friendly. It doesn't matter if you have an impairment," says David.

David, who is visually impaired, got training when he joined the Dome in January, but he believes attitude is equally important. "They wanted somebody flexible and not pushy. You have to be positive and participate in the customer's enjoyment. It's mostly common sense, but you do have to explore yourself and do it properly."

Lorraine Walters, 21, from East Sussex, worked as a shop

assistant before applying for the job of receptionist at local disability training company Eastnet in April 1999.

"I got the interview through the job centre and Blatchington Court Trust, a charity for blind and visually impaired people,"

'A good receptionist is down to earth and patient. Not everyone who comes through the door will be friendly'

says Lorraine. "It's under the supported employment scheme, so I was given a computer with a magnified screen and speech software."

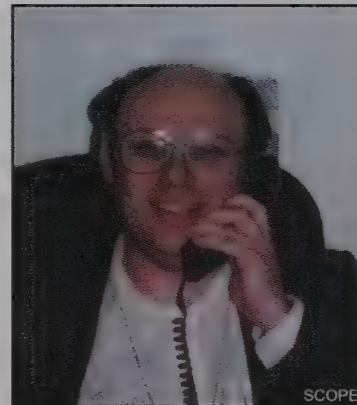
Her responsibilities include meeting all visitors, answering the telephone, taking messages and typing letters.

"You need communication skills and a good appearance. It doesn't matter if you have disability if you have the right technical support," says Lorraine, who is visually impaired.

"A good receptionist is somebody who is down-to-earth and patient. Not everyone who comes through the door or calls on the phone will be friendly."

Rory Turner (*below*), 36, from Surrey, "fell into" his job as receptionist at Scope's headquarters in London 11 years ago. He started doing work experience at the charity and was then asked to take on reception duties.

"I think I'm good at it," says Rory, who has cerebral palsy. "You need the ability to get on with all sorts of people and you have to be calm – although I'm not always that!"



His duties include booking meeting rooms and greeting visitors.

"Customer service skills you learn as you go along. There's no other way," he says.

He would recommend a career in reception to other disabled people and believes his disability has been a help in his job. "I'm more aware of people's needs. But quite possibly it would be more difficult to have got a job in a non-disability environment."

Christopher Aidoo (*below*), 24, from London, has worked as a gallery assistant in the Tate Britain art gallery since January. His tasks include patrolling the galleries and answering questions from the public.

Christopher, who has learning difficulties, passed four vocational foundation courses before working in a restaurant. He saw the gallery



assistant job advertised when he was attending the Mencap Pathway employment scheme.

"I had one interview. It was a bit hard because I was nervous," he says. "But I think they picked me because I knew how to answer questions and had worked with the public before."

"The best thing about the job is greeting people. I like working with the public," he says. "You have to be friendly and know what you're doing. You have to make customers happy."

Action for Blind People, tel: 020 7732 8771, fax: 020 7635 4900.

Blatchington Court Trust, tel: 01273 727222, fax: 01273 722244.

Blind in Business, tel: 020 7588 1885.

NVQ information is available from the Department for Education and Employment, tel: 0870 000 2288.

Eastnet, tel/fax: 01323 433322.

Hospitality Training Foundation, website: www.htf.org.uk

Institute of Customer Services, tel: 01206 571716.

Mencap Pathway employment scheme, tel: 020 7454 0454.

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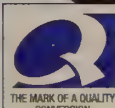
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Film

Simon Minty



Lars Von Trier is renowned for his unique film-making style and his controversial depiction of disability in films like *Breaking the Waves*.

His latest film, a musical called *Dancer in the Dark*, stars Björk as Czech immigrant Selma, who is losing her sight. She's a single mother working night and day in a factory to save enough money for her son to have an operation to correct his inherited sight condition. But as Selma's own sight

rapidly fades, concern over her safety increases. Refreshingly, it is not her sight loss causing the risk. As she says: "I could do this repetitive work with my eyes closed."

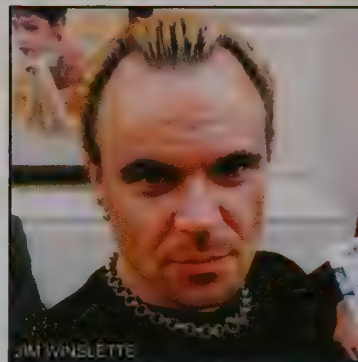
The problem is her love of musicals; she loses concentration perilously while daydreaming of starring in lavish productions. These wishful musical sequences create some curious but inspired moments.

Throughout most of the film I happily went along with the

story and portrayal, allowing for the odd artistically induced inaccuracy. But the film eventually falls headlong into prejudice and myth. From being an independent, productive member of the community Selma becomes a victim because of her sight loss and various inexplicable injustices. This is an extraordinary film, but in the end it is difficult to swallow. *On general release from 15 November.*

Television

Mik Scarlet

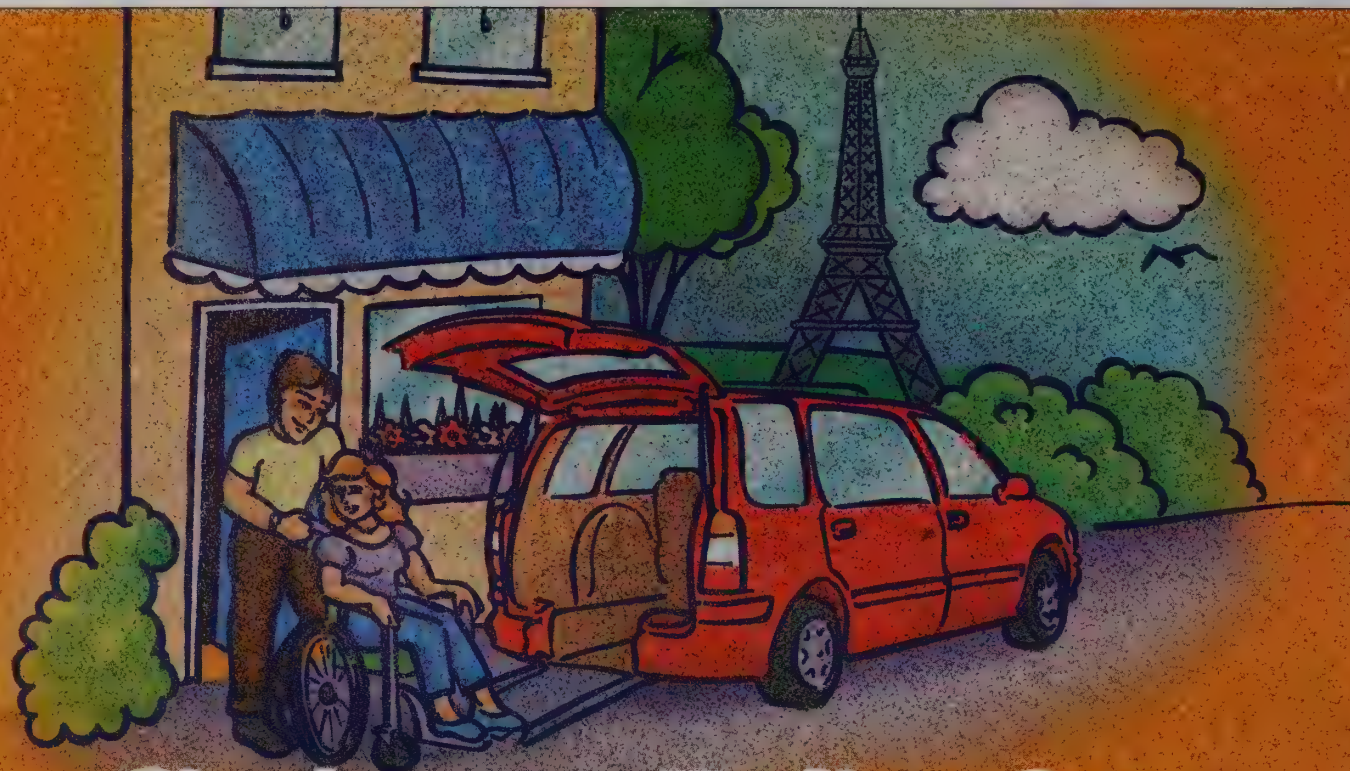


I must admit, with all the free time I have since the BBC decided *From the Edge* was an out-of-date format, I'm exactly the right person to review television.

That's Esther (ITV, June and July) takes TV from one extreme to another. On most UK programmes there is no disabled representation, while *That's Esther* has two disabled presenters, Heather Mills and Lara Masters. Just what an unemployed disabled TV presenter needs to see. I must admit I wouldn't be watching if it wasn't for this review, but it's not that bad. The shock is that the disabled presenters are not forced to do stories about disability. *That's Esther* has proved that disabled presenters should be integrated into the mainstream straight away.

Next up is something I spotted one afternoon – *Quincy* (BBC1, times vary). The issue Quincy was shouting about this episode was the bigotry faced by kids with Down's syndrome. It covers the topic in the heart-tugging way that US TV did in the 1970s. The most shocking thing is the story could have been done yesterday. You would have hoped such bigotry might have changed since I was a boy. The speed at which physically disabled people are gradually being accepted is like free fall compared to the uphill struggle of people with learning disabilities.

Last up is *Freak Out* (Channel 4, Thursday evenings). After the awful pilot, I wasn't looking forward to this new series. After watching it, I can definitely see the influence of the disabled staff that were employed to work on it. But I was amazed that, for a "groundbreaking" show, *Freak Out* reminds me a lot of ... *From the Edge*! I shall be watching closely to spot more similarities, if for nothing else. *Mik Scarlet is a guest reviewer.*



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Art

Libby Cross

Our Lives 2000, an exhibition of art by disabled people, has opened at the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester. Billed as a "virtual map of disability culture", the exhibition features audio-visual work as well as sculpture, painting and print.

In the absence of explanatory notes about the work on show, it is difficult to judge whether this is a collection of art with a political theme or, more straightforwardly, a display of work by artists who happen to be disabled. Perhaps it is best viewed as a bit of both.

Some of the pieces were obscure but interesting, while others were highly amusing.



Reaching out: Digital artwork by Brian Hilton, part of the *Our Lives 2000* exhibition

James Duncan's *Untitled* (a faceless head in blue, orange and white) and *Untitled Landscapes* (abstract but evocative) said nothing to me about disability culture but were nevertheless fine examples of abstract art.

James Wear's *Hyde I* – a garden shed with binoculars poking out of the window – made me laugh, reminding me of the feeling of "watchedness" those of us with visible disabilities often have when out in public.

Great Britain from a Wheelchair by Tony Heaton is a wonderful piece of sculpture – a map of Britain constructed from pieces of an old-fashioned NHS wheelchair, which if it has a "message" at all, makes clear that disability is a countrywide phenomenon.

Sylvia Hurt's *Untitled Sculpture* – angular, corrugated metal with the look of old iron – begged to be touched but offered no further explanation.

The most overtly political pieces were Brian Hilton's linked prints *Blackpool* and *New York*, which draw a telling comparison between the traditional image of a disabled girl holding a collecting tin and an alluring young woman in revealing lingerie.

Overall, an exhibition well worth a visit, in a venue worth seeing in its own right. The Royal Exchange is one of Manchester's most beautiful and easily accessible buildings. *Until 5 August, admission free. Orange badge parking nearby in St. Ann's Square (pedestrianised). Tel: 0161 833 9833.*

Radio

Chris Davies

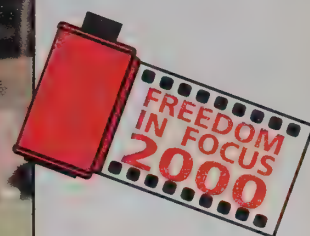
No Triumph No Tragedy (BBC Radio 4, 20 June-25 July) was another showcase for the excellent interviewing skills of Peter White. The three programmes I caught focused on individuals with one factor in common. All are impaired, but whether they are disabled in the sense of experiencing social disadvantage, is debatable.

Dr Tom Shakespeare is probably the best known of the three. He is a leading member of the disability movement and, to that extent, his credibility as a disabled person is beyond doubt. However, his background is not exactly typical, so whether or not he has had many disabling experiences is unclear. But he undoubtedly identifies with us, and that is what matters. I thought I knew Tom; I do now, thanks to Peter.

The other subjects, a journalist with Parkinson's disease and a blind judge, both from South Africa, were slightly less interesting to me. The judge, once a member of the outlawed ANC and now an important figure in the new South Africa, was the better of the two. The journalist still longed to be cured and it is with this that I cannot identify.

All were fascinating and revealing programmes. But, without any doubt, it is Peter White's skills which turned them into gems.

Kevin's on the team



Kevin says: "I'm delighted to be involved with Freedom in Focus. The competition is an important continuation of my disability work. It reinforces the fact that disability does not mean inability."

Other judges for the competition are model and TV presenter

Heather Mills, advertising art director Nic Hutton and Sophie Batterbury, features picture editor of the *Independent Review*.

The competition is open to amateur or professional disabled photographers, under 16 or 16 and over. In two categories, "Challenges" and "Sporting Challenges", the judges will be looking for strong images that show the challenges disabled people face and overcome.

Among the prizes are £500 and two tickets to England vs Germany at Wembley on 7 October, £500 and a week's holiday at Park House Hotel in Sandringham, cameras worth £500 and tickets to the Wembley game or the London Eye. All winners and runners-up will be invited to the House of Lords and receive a framed photo of themselves with Heather Mills or Kevin Keegan.

Closing date is 30 August 2000. Have a go. It could be your year! *Use the application form below. For the competition rules, see DN May or tel: 020 7619 7319, fax: 020 7619 7331.*

England manager Kevin Keegan will be a judge in the Freedom in Focus photography competition. He's agreed to judge the "Sporting Challenges" section and attend the winners' party at the House of Lords on 12 September. So if you've always wanted to meet him, now's your chance.

One of the most famous names in football, Kevin has been using his influence to bring more disabled people into the sport as players and supporters. Working with One 2 One, sponsor of this year's competition, and with charities, he's held training sessions for many young players with disabilities and invited Steve Johnson, captain of the England Amputee team and 1999 World Amputee Footballer of the Year, to join an England training session.

Last year he attended the One 2 One Charity Football Dinner, helping to raise money for the One 2 One Ability Counts programme (run by the English Federation of Disability Sport), and will be at the Dinner again this year in support of the same cause.

What's on

• *Coming to Our Senses*, Gas Hall, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, 26 August-29 October, is an exhibition which does away with the traditional "don't touch" rule. Exhibits designed to stimulate all the senses include costumes you can try on, with magnetic gloves and a weighted wig that alters your body's centre of gravity. There are also "emotional" light fittings which respond to touch, and a relaxations zone, a large aromatic dome woven from reed and willow. *For more information, tel: 0121 608 6668.*

• The Edinburgh Festival Fringe, boasting 479 plays, 264 comedy shows and 72 dance and physical theatre works, takes place 6-28 August. *For more information, write to Box YQ, 180 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QS, tel: 0131 226 5138, minicom: 0131 220 5594, or visit the website at www.edfringe.com*

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Number of photographs entered

Which category would you like to enter? (tick box)

"Challenges" ☐ "Sporting Challenges" ☐

Send your entry with this form to: Freedom in Focus Competition, *Disability Now*, FREEPOST WD 4323, London N7 9BR. No stamp required. Entering the competition means you have agreed to abide by the rules.



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Pretty pumps but are they practical? £14.99, Accessorize

Make the most of every burst of sun this summer by wearing light, bright clothes, say Dan Batten and Laura Strong

With torrential downpours and howling winds often proving more prevalent than sun this year, we might think that summer has evaded us once again.

This may be the case, but, with the erratic nature of English weather, it's still a good idea to have some light clothes just in case the sun pays a flying visit.

Michael Welch, 40, is a civil servant with his own definite sense of style. Michael, who



T-shirt, £12.99, Next

has cerebellar ataxia, plumps for a look he describes as "casual but chic". We couldn't work out if the clothes we'd picked would fit this bill. There was only one way to find out. Get changed, Michael!

When he emerged in his new clothes, Michael's smile said we'd got it right. His green shirt with darker green print and beige trousers were hits, the shirt being "exactly the sort of thing I'd go out and buy". The trousers were cool, "hanging well", soft and comfortable.

"I could get used to these," he mused.

Don't get too attached to them, Michael – we haven't finished with you yet. Next were a variety of short-sleeved T-shirts. The favourite was blue with a tie-dye pattern. "This isn't too different from something I'd have in my wardrobe anyway."

"I really like the V-neck too," he added. The other T-shirts let Michael indulge his fondness for "strong colours".

Last on was a pair of jeans from Next. They were given favourable comment, but Michael thought that £35 was a

Here comes



Ready for the rays: Green dress, £25, BHS; pink shawl, £9.99, Top Shop; necklace, £6.99, Accessorize

PHOTOS BY JAMIE FACER

bit steep. That's the downside of being stylish, Michael.

Michael always wears shoes

with leather soles to help with balance, as anything trainer or flip-flop-like is no go.

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the sun – we hope!

Footwear is also a problem for Alison Irwin, 26. Alison, who has Friedrich's ataxia and is a wheelchair user, has curved feet and finds anything resembling a flip-flop just falls off. That doesn't stop her favouring strappy, heeled sandals though, as the straps keep the shoes in place. They are part of Alison's carefully considered appearance, which is to "look really sexy!"

The clothes chosen for Alison were striking, and, once again, in line with what our model normally wears. She prefers clothes without awkward fasteners, so a short orange slip-on dress got the thumbs up and a big smile. But a green dress was the winner, beating the orange number hands down. Both from BHS, they scored well on practicality.

"They're really easy to get on," remarked Alison.

Alison likes to adorn what she wears with a few accessories – and it's certainly an easy way to change an

outfit. A pink shawl and necklace added the final touches and a black shawl and white cardigan were also tried.

"I really like the bead detail on the cardigan," said Alison. A bag decorated with Chinese-style embroidery also scored well. Another happy customer.

Can we make it three in a row? Next up was Margie Woodward, a "young" 46 and training adviser for disability charity Scope.

Margie, who has cerebral palsy, is another of the "smart but casual" brigade. She wears clothes that let her do her job, which requires her to "leap over and through things all the time". She avoids things with difficult fastenings and finds most trousers are too long.

"They don't cater for short legs," says Margie.

The trousers Margie tried on proved this straight away.

"They're really nice, but I'd have to take them up a mile," she said, clutching handfuls of material to stop the trousers dragging. Most of Margie's trousers are tailor-made, which costs her a fortune, but "it's the only way I get anything to fit".

Trousers a no-no, we move on to the stripy T-shirt, which Margie liked. She was non-committal about the pink sweatshirt jacket from BHS, but what did come in for a battering was the blue bag. "I hate it," Margie said. No room for ambiguity there then.

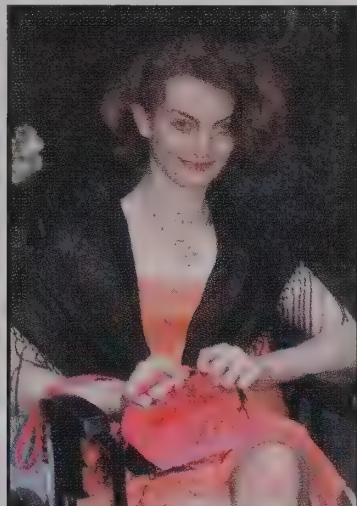
There is one plus to this summer's unpredictable weather. Lots of shops have been finding it hard to sell their summer lines and are slashing prices already. So if we have an Indian summer and you get ready with some bargain clothes, you'll definitely get the last laugh.



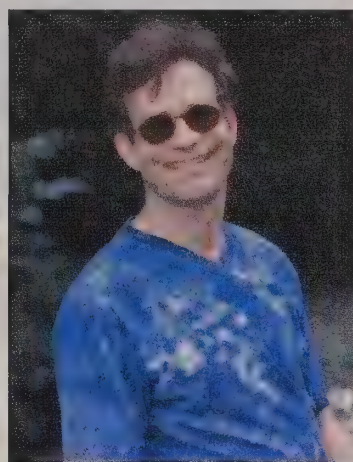
Summer style: Michael: green shirt, £24.99, Next Directory; linen trousers, from a selection at Debenhams, from £60; Alison: orange dress, £20, BHS; Margie: trousers, £20, BHS, jacket, £10.99, BHS.



Bags, from £12.99, Accessorize



Black shawl, £9.99, Top Shop



T-shirt, £16.99, Next



T-shirt, £5.99, Bon Marché

Clothes conscious

Awear, an organisation of disabled people and fashion professionals, is testing out a



scheme that should tell you which shops will give you the access and service you need. It has already piloted in 20 of ASDA's George clothing departments and the official launch is expected in 2001. Accredited stores will need to meet certain standards in access, facilities and staff awareness, and inspectors will be checking up to see those standards are kept.

Awear also has three-year National Lottery funding to develop Softwear, software that will produce made-to-measure clothes quickly. It's now looking for retail, manufacturing and software partners to help. Awear, tel: 0115 953 0439, fax: 0115 953 7440.

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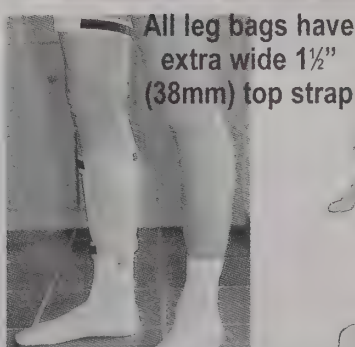
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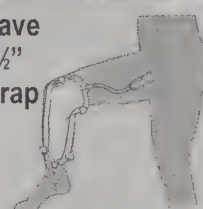
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Will it be alright on the flight?

Broken wheelchairs, cramped loos and inaccessible seats – those airlines and airports really know how to dampen your holiday spirit. Jane Parkinson is determined not to let them get away with it

The idea of a long-haul flight to Central America made me slightly apprehensive.

Last time we flew I looked helplessly down into the luggage well as my son Alex's wheelchair was thrown on to a conveyer belt, did two complete turns and landed on Heathrow Airport concourse upside down. The frame was irretrievably buckled.

How can you relax and enjoy a holiday with someone dependent on a wheelchair if the wheelchair gets broken? The travel agency had been so reassuring when I expressed my anxiety. The check-in staff had been nothing but helpful and charming. In the end, I guess, a wheelchair is just another heavy, awkward piece of luggage.

This time, then, we took every precaution, wrapping our essential three-wheel, all-terrain buggy in bubble wrap

'Sara watched me in awe as I asked four times to be given bulkhead seats and four times was told no. I raised my voice and said we could not get on the plane unless they gave us the seats. We got them'

and intending to take the wheelchair on the plane with us. I also phoned British Airways in advance, on another parent's advice, and asked to be allocated bulkhead seats which would allow us more room to manoeuvre with Alex, who has cerebral palsy.

On arrival at Gatwick, we checked in early as instructed, but somehow the promised seats had already gone. I took a deep breath, raised my voice and insisted, until the poor check-in girl gave in.

Relieved, we followed her directions to Gate 43 – through crowded halls, along moving



Fly us to the moon: or at least get our wheelchair home intact

carpets, down a spiral slope – and proffered our boarding cards. The hostess looked at the wheelchair.

"You can't come this way", she said. "There are stairs up to the plane."

All the way back we went, me pushing Alex in the wheelchair, our friend Sara with our hand luggage and loo seat, to the aircraft lift.

Once on the plane, the cabin crew were reluctant to store the folded wheelchair in the overhead lockers. Again I stood my ground; again I won.

But my heart sank again as I saw the tiny paper cushions. Alex needs a proper pillow to prop himself up on the seat. "Like the ones over there," I pointed.

"Those are for club class and they're taken," said a steward.

Later, I sneaked one out when no one was looking. This was a 12-hour flight and Alex lacks sitting ability.

Luckily, my son is a good traveller and was much taken with the personal TVs, free toys and airline meals.

The loo was tricky, but we managed. One of us would check it was free, while the other carried him up the aisle.

I would then squeeze myself and him into the tiny cubicle, my bottom sticking out into the kitchens as I couldn't shut the door.

Later in the flight, I noticed that the club-class loo was bigger, further from the hustle and bustle and vacant more of the time. I asked if we could use it, but staff looked doubtful. We waited until no one was looking and used it anyway. The aisles in club class were wider too.

On our return night flight, we asked again for bulkhead seats and again were refused, despite phoning earlier.

While Sara watched me in awe, I asked four times and four times was told no. I raised my voice and said we could not get on the plane unless they gave us the seats. We got them.

This time the crew were even more reluctant to store the wheelchair in the lockers. I told them we'd done so on the way out.

"Well, different planes have different rules," a hostess said.

"I'm not letting it go in the hold," I said. They stored it in the lockers.

On arriving at Gatwick, the three-wheel buggy had been squashed flat and was unusable. Weary from the

journey, we queued up to report at "damaged baggage".

I wrote afterwards, of course, to complain. The times I had had to assert myself may have been successful, but they had often left me trembling and upset.

The managers I spoke to professed astonishment at our story. Staff are trained in the handling of baggage, they say, and a very low percentage gets

'Alex's wheelchair was thrown on to a conveyer belt, did two complete turns and landed on Heathrow Airport concourse upside down. The frame was irretrievably buckled'

broken. A specific crew member should have been designated to take care of our needs. In future, we should always tell them our requirements at the time of booking.

But we did, we did!

They have since offered us, ironically, compensation of three club-class tickets to anywhere in Europe. Fantastic!

But will we find things any different this time?

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Looking for fun days out this summer? Get some outing inspiration from the second of DN's three-part series

Wildscreen is a new electronic zoo set in a great location by the harbour in Bristol.

After parking in the underground car park, which has extra large disabled parking spaces, we took the lift up to the ground floor. A short walk brought us to the entrance of Wildscreen.

Our first impression as we walked through the doors was WOW! The lights on the wall were like stars set in a blue twilight background, getting us all excited and eager to see more. The use of colours, lights and touch-sensitive computer screens was amazing. Our daughter Kirsty found it

Animal magic

The Schofield family go for a walk on the wild side at Bristol's new Wildscreen centre

wonderful being able to touch a screen to get information for herself without having to ask someone for help. She enjoyed being able to see most of the small animals and exhibits without having to be lifted from her wheelchair, and we all had plenty of room to walk about.

Not everything is open yet, but all the displays were really bright and eye-catching.

Our walk took us through the botanical gardens with their many plants, trees, ponds and whispering orchids. We stood and watched as butterflies glided past and then settled close by – they do the same in our garden, but seeing them in the botanical gardens made it extra special somehow.

The walkway was wide and easily accessible for the wheelchair, even though it spiralled up towards the upper floor. There we continued our walk through life from insects to dinosaurs, mammals and aquatic life.

Wildscreen Bristol is an excellent place to visit, especially for children – school



Animals Bristol fashion: the bright displays of Wildscreen's origins of life exhibition

VIRTUAL ARTWORKS

parties would certainly benefit.

The hands-on experience teaches children without them realising it's happening.

Wildscreen, the Explore science centre and the IMAX cinema

are all on an impressive site called @Bristol, making it a very pleasurable day out for the whole family. We definitely enjoyed everything we saw. @Bristol, tel: 0117 915 5000,

fax: 0117 915 7200, website: www.at-bristol.org.uk £6.50 for adults and £19 for families. Concessions are available and children under three get free entry.



Kirsty (left) with sister Ashleigh

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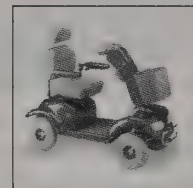
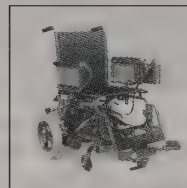
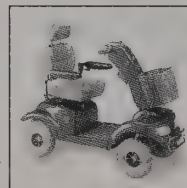
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Summer sorties

• The charity Holiday Care has produced an audio cassette version of its *Holiday Ideas for People Who Are Blind or Partially Sighted* information sheet. The hour-long tape gives information about various types of trip, specialist accommodation and overseas holidays. *Send 50p worth of stamps to the Information Unit, Holiday Care, 2nd Floor, Imperial Buildings, Victoria Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 7PZ.*

• The annual summer craft fair and children's fun day takes place at Florence Court, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, 20 August. There will be a wide range of traditional crafts, face painting, pony and trap rides, Punch and Judy and much more. *Tel: 01365 348249.*

• Gordon 2000 is a celebration of Scottish culture at Huntly Castle, Aberdeenshire. The main

Life – but not as you know it

The Cowling family check out the new Life Interactive World in Newcastle

“Mindblowinbody-rockinheartacinbreath-takin”, the brochure said. Life Interactive World, a new centre aimed at enlightening visitors about the secrets of life, has a lot to live up to – was it just hype? We went to find out.

Our party included an elderly aunt over from Australia, Joe, your typical football-obsessed 11-year-old, David, a 14-year-old wheelchair user, and Ma and Pa bringing up the rear.

As we approached the unmistakable building (whacky green roof like no roof you've ever seen before, at least not in Newcastle), we decided none of us were very sure what we were expecting. There was a big clue in the logo that David's twin Ben had pointed out to me earlier. The “F” in LIFE was actually a chromosome pair.

And what a week to pick to visit a place dedicated to conveying the secrets of life to us non-scientists! Newspapers had been full of the human genome, now fully mapped.

First impressions were of the space of the building. It was buzzing with activity. There were plenty of people there but no sense of crowding.

Joe dragged Great Aunt

(GA) Pat to the photobooth to have their mugshots taken and recorded on to their tickets. This meant that at various stations around the centre they could insert their tickets to see their face morph into that of an ancient animal relative. Joe looked great as a marmoset-type thing, while GA Pat made a very good lungfish.

There were plenty of audio-visual treats for David. Entering the dark meteor tunnel, he jumped out of his skin at the noise of a huge meteor crashing into the earth.

There were little flashing lights and moving words projected on to the walls, all in a fairly enclosed space.

More roars as we moved on into the dinosaur tunnel and then through a talking doorway which told us we were getting smaller and smaller in a darlek*-type electronic voice.

It was a relief to enter into the quiet Nilsson Theatre, where a calming voice talked us through the 3D film of a baby's development in the womb. Unfortunately, David refused to keep the special specs on!

The Crazy Motion Ride was exhilarating – it did have our knuckles white at times. (GA Pat sat it out, quite sensibly preferring to have a go at finding out what the brain feels like to the touch.)

While Joe and his big kid of a dad loved the physical games in the Life Arcade, David preferred the ride up in the lift and, once there, the lights whirling around the huge double helix model, glinting in stainless steel.

By this time GA Pat was in dire need of a cuppa, so we retired to the café. In our 2½-hour visit we'd managed most of the major activities, but it is definitely worth a repeat trip. Just a shame GA Pat will have to come all the way from Perth!

* If you don't know what a darlek is then you're too young to be reading this article!

International Centre For Life, tel: 0191 243 8223, website: www.lifeinteractiveworld.co.uk £6.95 for adults, £4.50 for children, £19.95 for a family (two adults and two children or one adult and three children) and £5.50 for concessions.



Life experience: Dad John with GA Pat, Joe (right) and David (front)

Win! Win! Win!

We have five family tickets, worth £19.95 each, to give away. Send your name and address on a postcard marked “Interactive” to DN, Freepost WD4323, London N7 9BR by 31 August.

Independence Days..



Here at Marquis Motorhomes, we have many years' experience in serving people with disabilities. From major modifications to minor adaptations' our aim is to enable everyone to get the most from their motorhome, and to enjoy the independence and flexibility a properly adapted vehicle can offer.

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For further information on the full range of services we are able to offer, call us **FREE on 0800 26 7777**, or return the coupon below.



Both 'Horizon' and 'Mystique' models offer:

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www.marquis-mh.co.uk


Bright ideas

This month's round-up of handy new gadgets from Dan Batten

 Do you find it awkward getting your arms into your favourite shirt? If you have restricted shoulder or arm movement, the Snappi Dressa (below right) could be the helping hand you need. It fits on to a wall or door, with

the garment held firmly in place by two clips. You just step back, slip your arms into the sleeves, step forward and, *voilà*, you're dressed! The Snappi Dressa folds away, too, so don't worry about catching yourself on it and suspending yourself

on the back of the door. £18.95, Nottingham Rehab Supplies, tel: 0870 6000 197.

 The Silent Alert Paging System is a useful tool for people who are deaf or hearing impaired. Features



Pedal power: the SolarTracker

In 2000, Hyundai was voted the UK Automotive Company of the Year by the Institute of Transport Management and heralded as "one of the top players in the UK automotive industry".

This for the second year running.

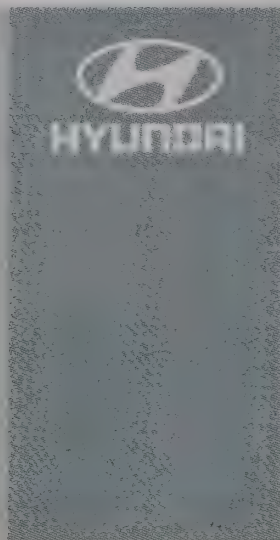
Should we be surprised? When you look at how we design our cars, we have to admit that the answer is probably "no".

Just look at the new five-door Hyundai Amica, where style meets fun, reliability meets practicality and value meets economy.

A perky 1-litre engine, electric front

windows, driver's airbag, stereo radio/cassette and a double-folding rear seat are standard on the Amica Si, with the GSi (illustrated) gaining air conditioning, alloy wheels, power steering and a split-fold rear seat. Metallic paint is free on Motability Scheme cars from Hyundai and automatic transmission is available as an option on the Amica.

For full details of the Hyundai 'Motability' Scheme and the exciting Hyundai range of hatchbacks, saloons, estates and coupés, call Hyundai free on 0800 981 981 - or visit our website on www.hyundai-car.co.uk.



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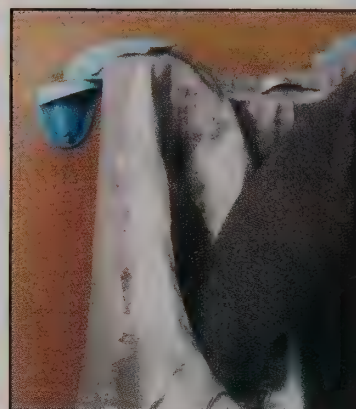
*This is the trademark of Motability: Registered Charity No.299745

Motability
TM


include a ten-second vibrating signal when the doorbell rings and a continuous vibration when an alarm sounds.


From £180.60 (plus VAT), Clofield, tel: 0800 387397, fax/minicom: 01246 450789.

 If you find pedalling tiring but would like to cycle, a SolarTracker electric bike (above) could help. It is powered by a rechargeable battery and can travel 40-50km without you having to pedal. You need to be over 14 to ride one on public roads. £599 from Solartrack, tel: 020 8595 1218.



The Snappi Dressa

 You can now buy a wheelchair battery from the comfort of your own home through Hawker, which has just opened an online store. All you need to do is type in the make and model of your wheelchair, place your order and arrange a time for delivery. From around £100, website: www.hawker.invensys.com

 Are your culinary ambitions being held back by kitchen cupboards that are out of reach? Astor-Bannerman's drop-down overhead cupboard frames could help. They move forwards and down, are controlled by a handset and come in various sizes. The company also has height-adjustable work-surface frames which can incorporate a hob. Cupboards from about £900, tel: 01865 880567.

DN cannot guarantee the price, quality or availability of the products mentioned on this page.

Radboy's ramblings

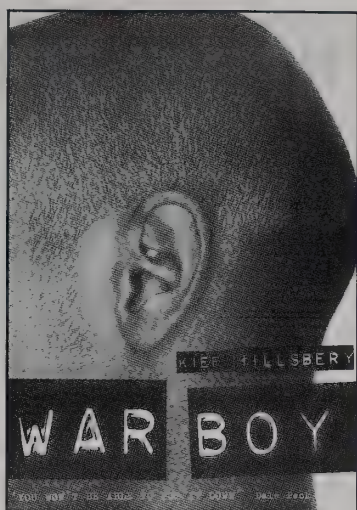
In Kief Hillsbery's *War Boy*, the family of the main character Radboy is not so much dysfunctional as disappearing.

His father murders his mother and then sets about Radboy, but the 14-year-old skateboarder, who has no speech or hearing, is saved by Jonnyboy, the only person left to trust. Despite his turbulent childhood, Radboy has a certain moral code. He won't let Jonnyboy down.

Accepted with ease into the twilight crack society of Finn and Critter, Radboy cannot hear music but feels the vibes. He has one advantage: he is cool. As Jonnyboy says, it doesn't matter that you can't hear the music: "You're a punk when you're born."

Radboy takes responsibility for looking after the "boyz", waking them frequently for Pop Tarts to make sure they eat properly, and working as a DJ.

But love and politics



intervene. Radboy masterminds an unlikely kidnap and bomb attack to save giant redwood trees. The idea spins out of control. Disaster strikes – Jonnyboy can't be trusted after all.

At first glance the witty ramblings of a super-clued "sk8board" freak, this first novel is imbued with a touching childhood innocence. Tension carries you along: it is as though Radboy goes through life stepping on landmines, missing each time, or else they explode behind him. He turns round, bemused, only when he feels the ground vibrate.

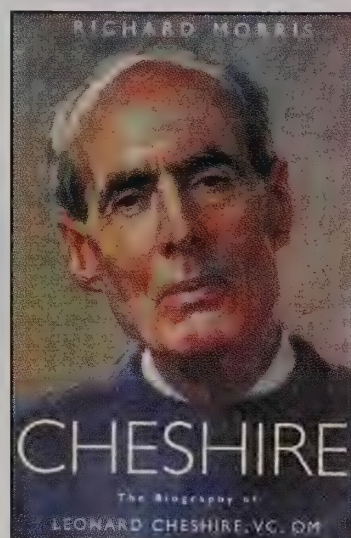
£10, Picador Marion Bull

"Saints intercede for humanity with God," says Richard Morris, author of *The Biography of Leonard Cheshire*. Morris describes his tale of this man as a *vita* – the life of a saint.

Cheshire, who was more closely associated with disability than anyone else during the 20th century, was an internationally-renowned war hero with a Victoria Cross by his mid-20s. Official documents and first-person accounts by RAF colleagues detail a humbling courage. Cheshire could motivate others to hard work above and beyond the call of duty.

From the upper middle class, he had the "common touch". Hundreds of letters from

St Leonard?



of wartime and the sense of individual responsibility for the group. Later, following the death of an ex-serviceman whom he had nursed, he fixed on providing sanctuary for the neglected – dying and disabled people.

There was a spontaneous, make-do, cheerful attitude in the lean post-war years that, perhaps because of Cheshire's conversion to Catholicism, hardened into an almost monastic model of expected self-sacrifice from workers and gratitude from residents. Disability was a cross to bear. Volunteers would find "the Face of Christ" in those they cared for. This ethos worried some, and paternalistic management structures in the Homes did not keep pace with changing times. The book hardly touches on the burgeoning global

disability rights movement.

Yet at a time when disability meant acute isolation and poverty, even family rejection, Cheshire shunned bureaucracy and planned the Homes as families. As an alternative to the misery that accompanied disability, the Cheshire Homes of the 1950s and 1960s – and later elsewhere in the world – undoubtedly saved and improved lives.

Cheshire had a tubercular lung removed, spending two years in hospital, and had motor neurone disease at the end of his life in 1992.

His view of illness as a welcome personal blessing and disabled people as tools for others' spiritual fulfilment can jar. And it is possible to see his chosen way of providing a vital haven for disabled people, when no alternative existed, as part of the reason why independent living has been so long delayed.

Was that Cheshire's fault? What did he achieve for disabled people and what is his legacy? Each of us will have a different view and, given Cheshire's evident personal magnetism, those who met him may have an advantage in deciding.

Whatever your opinion about his methods, the book makes clear Cheshire's strong sense of equality and his solidarity with disabled people.

£20, Viking Agnes Fletcher

Stranger than fiction

If you, like me, are one of many people who have epilepsy, then you will probably understand my feelings about *Spasm – A Memoir with Lies* by psychologist Lauren Slater.

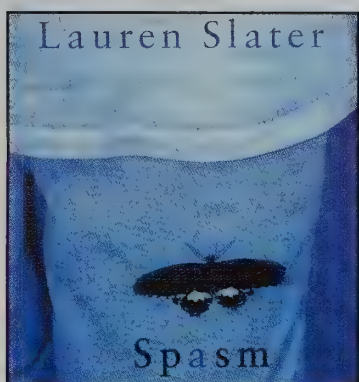
It is the story of Slater's supposed temporal lobe epilepsy from the age of 13 to 17. It should have illustrated the experiences that I have daily, and it did not. In fact, the accounts that Slater gives of epilepsy agree very much with the first two words written in Chapter One: "I exaggerate."

Slater mentions, for instance, a special school where she was sent to learn how to fall. It is hard to envisage being taught this: you really have no control of your own actions during a seizure.

The auras Slater describes – hers have the scent of jasmine and cinnamon – are fairly characteristic, and a lot of what she remarks on is typical of epilepsy. But it could just as easily be written by someone who has studied the condition.

It is hard to tell whether Slater really did have epilepsy, and not non-epileptic attack disorder or even Munchausen's. Your decision will, I think, depend on whether you are epileptic yourself. The book, in any case, gives a compelling insight into Slater's mind.

£9.99, Methuen Nicole Boren



'His view of illness as a welcome personal blessing and disabled people as tools for others' spiritual fulfilment can jar'

service people and bereaved parents relaying their sons' admiration show his ability to make everyone he spoke to feel unique and valued.

The celebrity and glamour acquired during his RAF days and this ability to motivate others informed his charity work.

Cheshire started with a stand-alone community of unemployed ex-servicemen and their families – attempting to recreate both the camaraderie



NEW! Access Guide to London's West End Theatres for theatregoers with a disability

The new edition of the Access Guide to London's West End Theatres is out now and on-line:

www.theatre-access.co.uk

This new website has details of access in all the major West End theatres plus comprehensive show listings, news and **sign language interpreted** and **audio described performances**.

Forthcoming **sign language interpreted performances** under SOLT's access initiative include *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (August 3) and *An Inspector Calls* (September 2). Check the site for further details or pick up a London Theatre Guide.

Forthcoming **audio described performances** include *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (August 5), *Les Misérables* (August 31), *The Woman in Black* (September 4), *Mamma Mia!* (October 4) and *The Phantom of the Opera* (November 8). Call VOCALEYES on 0870 902 0002 for more information on audio described performances.

Our **Access Guide** is also available in standard print, large print, tape and braille. To get your copy call 020 7557 6751 or write to: Access Guide, Society of London Theatre, 32 Rose Street, London WC2E 9ET Email enquiries@soltma.co.uk





Dear Ann

Who better to help you? Ann Darnbrough, who is disabled herself, is co-author of the Directory for Disabled People and other guides. Write to her at Disability Now, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW or e-mail editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

I want them back

I need advice on how to get my daughter Hannah and my son Anthony back out of care. I have learning difficulties and it is because of this that they tell me I am not able to look after my children.

I have no one to turn to – I don't find my advocate that helpful – and I would be glad of your help.

Annabel, London

I am very sorry indeed to hear that your children have been taken into care. You say you believe it is because you have learning difficulties. This, of course, is not a good enough reason.

I suggest you contact Mencap and I am sure they will be helpful. They exist to help people with learning difficulties. I have given details of a special unit at the Mencap headquarters and a local Mencap Family Adviser Service (these exist all over the country).

If, as you say, your advocate is not very helpful, you could

ask for another person to help you who might be more effective.

Seeking support

I have been trying to find an organisation which represents people diagnosed with spastic paraparesis. So far I have had no luck.

I am a member of the Friedrich's Ataxia Group and the Multiple Sclerosis Society, but I am in need of an organisation which can shed some light on this diagnosis and its possible outcome.

Roger, York

I have just had a very helpful conversation with Stephanie Pengelly, who runs a helpline for the Progressive Hereditary Spastic Paraparesis (paraplegia) Society. She has this condition herself and is very knowledgeable. I am sure she will be able to give you all the information you need.

Help with ME

I am only 17 and I have myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME). I don't

■ love and loneliness

■ bereavement

■ personal problems

■ advice and support

know where to turn. My friends have all slipped away because I can't join in anything they do.

I don't suppose you can help me, but I'm so desperate that anything's worth a try.

Mary-Ann, Worcester

I can recommend just the right sort of organisation for you, the Association of Youth with ME (AYME).

They are an imaginative bunch of people with some good publications, including an excellent newsletter describing young people's experiences of ME and how they are coping with their lives.

How to find a home alone?

I once had a "schizophrenia-type" condition, but I take medication and have never had a relapse. I live in my parents' home but have always tried to live a fairly independent life.

Now my parents would like me to get a flat of my own and I don't know how to go about getting information from housing trusts or council housing departments.

I go to two churches and made enquiries at my diocese's headquarters, but they seem not to offer any housing facilities or advice services.

I need to move somewhere I will not feel isolated. I already feel very unhappy. Three months ago I had a hysterectomy and that is also generating a sense of loss for me.

Kathleen, Liverpool

I am sure your parents have your best interests at heart and feel you would be happier in accommodation of your own.

It is important that you get a social worker who will know how to arrange a flat for you and will also give you support. You could ring social services or try asking your GP for help. You may also like to contact Saneline, a national helpline for anyone coping with mental health problems. While those difficulties are in the past for you, I am sure you would find them helpful and encouraging.

The Church of England has a Board of Social Responsibility in Liverpool, which might be able to help. If you like, I could write on your behalf.

You are daunted by this new period of your life, but it may turn out to be much better than you suppose. Rather than a sense of loss, you may gain a sense of achievement.

You are sad that you will never have children, but there is nothing to stop you finding activities that involve children. Your churches will welcome your help, and your library will have details of any societies and clubs for children. *See also page 21.*

Factfile

AYME, Sunbow House, 5 Medland, Woughton Park, Milton Keynes MK6 3BH, tel: 01908 691635. Board of Social Responsibility, Church House, 1 Hanover Street, Liverpool L1 3DW. Contact Ultan Russell.

London Family Adviser Service, Mencap, tel: 020 8586 7548. Contact Martin Cunningham. Progressive Hereditary Spastic Paraparesis (paraplegia) Society, 37 Alexandra Road, Great Wakering, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS3 0HN, helpline: 01702 218184, mobile: 07989 313860. Contact Stephanie Pengelly.

Public Liaison Unit, Mencap, 123 Golden Lane, London EC1Y 0RT, tel: 020 7696 5593/5503. Contact Joanna Preston-Wyse.

Saneline, tel: 0345 678000 (price of a local call), 12pm-2am every day.

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In this book, women with a learning disability give voice to their thoughts and feelings on a range of topics which matter to them. The chapters cover subjects ranging from work to relationships and the politics of learning disability. The book offers a unique insight into what it means to be a woman with a learning disability in Europe today. It also provides a detailed account of the process by which women with and without a learning disability worked to support each other to make their voices heard. It is essential reading for anyone involved in service provision and a landmark contribution to feminist writing.

Price: £9.50 + 5% p&p

Published 2000

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DN's telephone counsellor Lin Berwick can give disabled people and carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Disabled herself, Lin is a psycho-therapeutic counsellor and Methodist local preacher, and she has a postgraduate diploma in homeopathic medicine. If you have something you need to discuss in confidence, talk to her on Mondays 6pm-10pm and Thursdays 1pm-5pm, tel: 01787 882111.



By DN's
astrologer
Marion
Stanton



LEO (24 July-23 Aug)

Romance at the start of August changes to a whirl as Mars passes through Leo. Don't make hasty decisions – you may regret it when the moon opposes you on the 15th.

VIRGO (24 Aug-23 Sept)

Venus enters Virgo on the 7th, bringing romance for single people and closeness for couples. Bonds will strengthen from the 23rd with more self-belief.

LIBRA (24 Sept-23 Oct)

You should have more energy for the challenges that drained you last month. So, take an active holiday to recharge those batteries further or dig in and work away.

SCORPIO (24 Oct-22 Nov)

Avoid conflict. Your temper may rise and there is danger of being too quick to condemn others. Use your wisdom and practice restraint. Avoid risks this month.

SAGITTARIUS (23 Nov-21 Dec)

Find out who your friends and foes are before you embark on anything. Talk your way out of tight corners. You have a bit more energy now and there's a light at the end of the tunnel.

CAPRICORN (22 Dec-20 Jan)

You may get mixed messages. Things become clearer around the 23rd when you will be able to communicate your needs more clearly. Expect to receive some unexpected support from a female relative.

AQUARIUS (21 Jan-19 Feb)

Powerful feelings could erupt in August around the 15th when the full moon is in your sign. But you have the right balance of self-restraint and responsiveness to deal with the situation.

PISCES (20 Feb-20 Mar)

August will not be easy. Do not progress any major projects. It is hard to see the wood for the trees so shelve what you can and try and take a break.

ARIES (21 Mar-20 Apr)

It's a good time to approach someone in authority with an idea. While others bask in the holiday sun you can take advantage of the slower summer pace to develop a project of your own.

TAURUS (21 Apr-21 May)

Don't be bull-headed with loved ones in your attempt to be understood. You have a fixed position over an important matter that involves those close to you. Listen to

ACROSS

1. Oscar Wilde's vain hero (6,4)
8. Type of tea (5)
9. Stuck together (7)
10. Get risen tin (anag)
11. Clumsy or unskilful (5)
13. Pester (6)
15. Widespread lack of food (6)
16. Ancient philosopher (5)
- 20,22. Bore raffish heart (anag – 6,2,5,3)
21. Say red yet (anag)
22. See 20.

DOWN

1. Treatment for kidney problems (8)
2. Back-up for enablers (7,4)
3. Confess or concede (5)
4. Child's street chariot (2-4)
5. Speech disability (7)
6. Three-horsed carriage (6)
7. Sayings (6)
12. Symbol of Scotland (7)
14. On the other side (7)
16. Swollen (5)
17. Area for public events (5)
18. Different or apart (5)
19. Carry out orders (4)

their point of view as well.

GEMINI (22 May-22 June)

Things may go your way at the start of August. A relative may get jealous and show it. If you are generous and share your good fortune with others you should be able to overcome any obstacles.

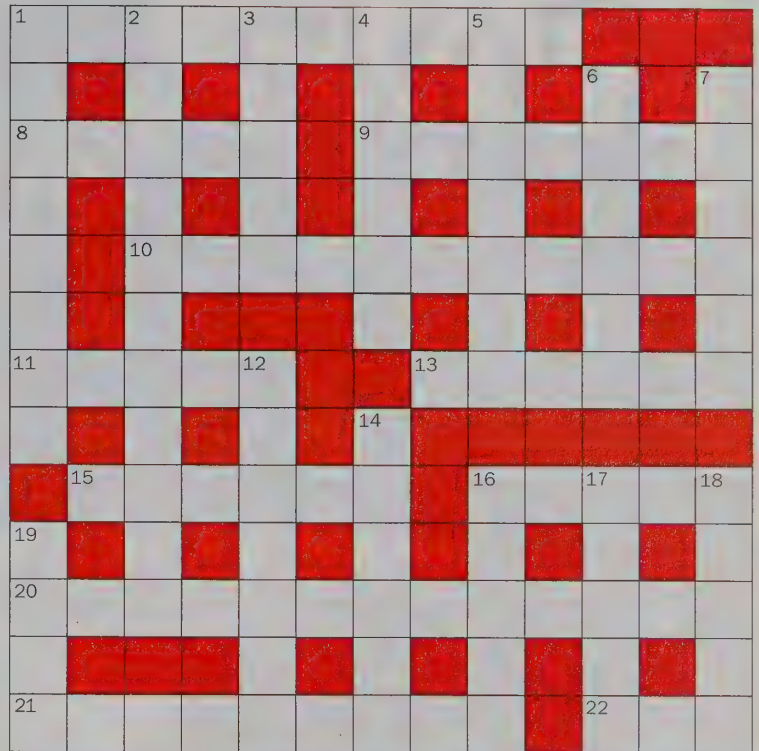
CANCER (23 June-23 July)

Niggling worries could affect your health. The problem is not big. Relax and take time off. Listen to your partner's advice: they have a better grip on things.

DN's crossword

Creating opportunities with disabled people

LEONARD CHESHIRE



Scribble pad

Answers on page 43
COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS

Wembley's a winner

Visitors to the Independent Living Show in Wembley, 13-14 September, will find a new attraction – the Sunrise "House of Independence" – a fully adapted home giving you ideas for your own home.



Most national manufacturers and organisations will be there. So you can get advice and try out equipment before purchasing. There's even a test track for trying out wheelchairs and scooters.

Another advantage of the Independent Living Show is the free seminar series. This year's topics include multiple sclerosis and cannabis

use, continuing professional development for occupational therapists, and how changes in equipment provision affect the consumer. Presenters include inventor, Professor Heinz Wolf, whose seminar *Living at home is best* will discuss how present and future technology can increase independence at home.



The show is free, and visitors are encouraged to send for their ticket in advance so they can gain quicker entry. For full details and tickets, tel: 0870 751 1437.
• Look out for a review of the show in the October issue.



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New rates for 2000:

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income support, housing benefit, council tax exemption, disability working allowance, job seekers allowance (please include proof of entitlement – documentation showing name of claimer and benefit type)

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Motability*

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• Information

Through the Roof have published *Churches and the Disability Discrimination Act*, a leaflet stating how churches can avoid discriminating, what changes they need to make, where they can get help and what to expect after 2004. For a free copy write to Through the Roof, PO Box 178, Cobham, Surrey KT11 1YN.

The Royal National Institute for the Blind have produced a new "low vision" website. It is divided into two sections, one for people with sight problems, the other for eye care professionals, and is accessible to specialist technology. The site contains a database of all low vision services throughout the UK as well as research reports and product information. Visit it at www.rnib.org.uk/lowvision

Fieldfare, in partnership with the Millennium Commission have established 50 Millennium Awards of between £2,000 and £10,000 to increase opportunities for disabled people to explore the countryside in Scotland. Projects could include setting up access groups, education projects or printing trail leaflets. Roadshows about the awards operate from 5 July to 20 September. For more details and venues, tel: 01334 657708, fax: 01334 657978.

Scotland's National Disability Information Service (UPDATE) provides up-to-date information and support services to information providers in Scotland. It also works with the Scottish Accessible Information Forum (SAIF) to promote the *Standards for Disability Information and Advice Provision in Scotland*. For details, tel: 0131 558 5200, minicom: 0131 558 5202.

SOUNDWRITE SoundWrite, the audio book company, has published its June 2000 catalogue. It is split into sections including bestsellers, drama and comedy, children and biographies. Well-known titles range from Enid Blyton's *Noddy* to Alex Garland's *The Beach*, Seamus Heaney's *Beowulf* and Dylan Thomas' *Under Milk Wood*. £1, from SoundWrite, tel/fax: 01202 764709, e-mail: enquiries@soundwrite.co.uk

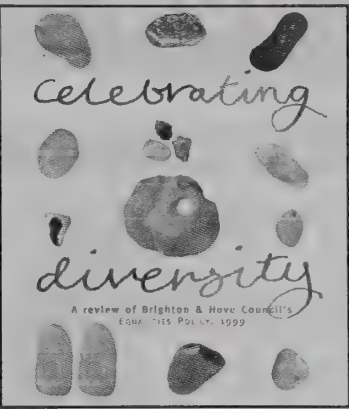
Homeworking is a new website giving free information to those wishing to work from home.

The site is split into sections including job search, debt advice, scam warnings, small business information and case studies. Visit the site at www.homeworking.com

The Cheshire Ability Foundation Housing Association has changed its name to **Ability**. The Association provides

rented or shared ownership housing for people with physical or learning disabilities, as well as care and support to help with independent living. Tel: 01784 490910, e-mail: info@ability-housing.co.uk

Brighton and Hove Council have published a review of their Equalities Policy 1999, *Celebrating Diversity*. Split into



six areas including disabled people and lesbians and gay men, it discusses achievements, procedures and outlines future targets. For disabled people this is divided into legislation, getting around, and the workplace. For a free copy (available in different formats), contact the Policy and Communications Team, tel: 01273 291021, fax: 01273 291013.

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FORD TRANSIT EXECUTIVE minibus, metallic blue, K reg, pas. Fitted power side-lift, fittings for one wheelchair alongside driver, plus 4 passenger seats. Towbar, new MOT, vgc, 65k miles. £3,750 ono. Tel: 01737 844787 (Dorking).

RENAULT TRAFIC, INTERBILITY conversion, hydraulic wheelchair lift. Fitted out for leisure use with cooker, wash basin, flushing toilet and day bed/bench seats. J reg, 1991, £4,500 ono. For full details and photographs, tel: 0117 968 5898 (Bristol).

FORD FOCUS 1.6L Zetec Estate, auto, silver, 1,284 miles. W reg (March 2000). Vgc, hand controls, electric boot hoist with Mini Jazzer electric wheelchair. Complete package £11,000. Tel: 01932 886615 (Leicester).

FORD TRANSIT TURBO diesel, auto, N reg, 46k miles, metallic green. Remote side door, ramp and rear doors, with step, towbar and electric mirrors, windows, gear change and hand brake. Tie downs for wheelchair, two rear seats, tinted windows and sound proofed. 10-CD multi-changer. Offers over £10,000 ono. Tel: 01383 727737.

RENAULT EXTRA VAN converted for wheelchair. Ramp, electric winch and large windows. H reg, long MOT. £2,750. Tel: 01296 730696 (Bucks).

CHRYSLER VOYAGER 3.3CC, S reg, excellent condition, fully adapted for wheelchair user. Hydraulic lift, automatic, pas, air con, tinted rear windows. 2,117 miles. £27,500 ono. Tel for details: 01844 212153 (Oswestry).

VAUXHALL COMBO 1.4 1997, red, wheelchair passenger plus 3 others. Rear access, all-round vision, lowering system, fully serviced and MOT to March 2000 by Vauxhall dealer. 3k miles, excellent condition. £9,500. Tel: 01268 695916 (Essex, after 6pm).

CITROEN BERLINGO, BROTHERWOOD adaption for large wheelchair, seats four others in comfort. S reg. Only £10,950 ono. Tel: 01244 319642 (Chester).

CHAIRMAN FIESTA 1.3, J reg, 51k miles. £1,250 ono. Tel: 01291 626718 (Chepstow).

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.8 1996, N reg. Vgc, fsh, electric hoist, hand controls. Electric windows and pas. £5,250 ono. Tel: 01702 466087.

NISSAN VERSA VANETTE, 1994, L reg, rear wheelchair access, 3 rear seats, under 10k miles. Vgc, £3,750. Tel: 01843 866751.

MOTORCARAVAN, COACHBUILT AND converted for disabled passenger and family. L reg, tail-lift, lots of storage. 12 months MOT, very comfy, reduced for quick sale. £16,000 ono. Tel: 01202 733171.

CHAIRMAN METRO, D REG, 50k miles. 1 year MOT, 3 seats plus wheelchair, vgc. £1,250 ono. Tel: 01923 232148 (Watford).

CHAIRMAN ESCORT, G REG, automatic invalid car. Wheelchair access by rear ramp. 6,500 miles, one owner. £1,500. Tel: 020 8546 3484.

ELAP ROTATING PASSENGER side car seat to fit Renault Clio only. Vgc, was £630, asking £250. Tel: 01974 272696 (West Wales).

FORD TRANSIT, AUTO 27k miles, K reg, pas, fully adapted. Recent refurbishment costing £4,000. Wheelchair or able-bodied driver. Full MOT June 2000. Excellent condition with many extras. £6,750 ono. Tel: 0121 459 7771.

RENAULT EXTRA 1.4, petrol, E reg, red, 73k miles, one full year's MOT. Adapted by Poynting with ramp for wheelchair passenger. Vgc, £1,650. Tel: 01159 525690 (Nottingham).

• Courses

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NISSAN SERENA, N REG, Brotherwood conversion, 27k miles. Immaculate condition. £10,995 ono. Tel: 01279 507200.

METRO 1.3, AUTO, MOT till May. Adapted to take wheelchair passenger. Vgc, £1,800. Tel: 01323 842227 (East Sussex).

FORD ESCORT ENCORE, 16v, auto, pas, N reg, 11k miles. Fitted with Constables carchair on passenger side. Bargain at £4,990. Tel: 020 7266 0212.

RENAULT TRAFIC, L REG, 12 months MOT, 8 seats plus driver, ramp, wheelchair clamping throughout. 25k miles, £8,500 ono. Tel: 01908 316926.

CHAIRMAN METRO, SILVER, back ramp, vgc, 44k miles, 7 month MOT, 1100cc. Only 2 previous owners. £4,500 ono. Tel: 0116 224 7794 (Leicester).

SWIVEL CAR SEAT, swings out and round. Cost £1,165, as new, accept £765. Tel: 01502 741422 (Suffolk).

ELAP ROTATING CAR seat to fit Renault Clio, 4-door car. Very good condition. Cost £675, offers around £400. Tel: 01522 810065.

VOLVO 740 AUTO estate, G reg (July 1990), 74k miles. Hodge wheelchair, electric hoist, taxed and MOT until start of June 2001. £2,250 ono. Tel: 01903 884864.

UNISTOW SCOOTER TRAILER, fits to car towbar. £350 ono. Tel: 0116 220 9188.

NISSAN PRAIRIE 1.8, auto, E reg. Brotherwood conversion, MOT, 73k miles. Tel: 01727 852254 (Herts).

• Household/family

BATH LIFT SEAT, Neptune, very good condition, fits inside bath. £524 new, £150 ono. Tel: 020 8502 2829.

PREMIER WALK-IN bath with shower. Cost £4,000, excellent condition, will accept £500. Tel: 01792 774329.

NIAGARA THERAPY MASSAGE pad and hand unit. Can be used separately. Excellent condition. Cost £1,090, accept £550. Instructions and video. Tel: 01924 261541.

BATH BUBBLE LIFT aid with electric inflate/deflate blower. 1998, one month usage. £600 new, £300 ono. Tel: 020 7221 5933 (by 31 July) or 020 7937 1643 (from 1 August).

AREMCO MATTRESS VARIATOR electric, 4ft wide, £200. Portable commode chair, £50. Seca electronic weigh chair, vgc, £450 ono. Silicore pressure relieving mattress, little used, £100. Or £650 for all the aforementioned. Tel: 0113 250 6128.

MEDIMOTION ELECTRONIC LEG exerciser machine as used in rehab and hospitals. Excellent features, as new. Cost over £1,000, offers in excess of £350. Various other quality disability aids available. Tel: 01244 319642 (Chester).

MANGAR BATTERY POWERED compressor for lifting cushion. Tel: 01342 311941.

ELECTRIC RECLINER CHAIR. £300. Tel: 01902 761979.

AQUABILITY BATH BUBBLE. Unused, cost £700, accept reasonable offer. Tel: 020 7624 5447 (London).

VOLKER 3010 BED, fully adjustable. Extras. As new, cost £2,300, accept £1,600. Tel: 07801 839984 (day), 01495 226187 (after 6pm).

STAIRLIFT BISON BEDE Classic, straight rail. Only used seven months. £1,400 ono. Tel: 01708 769497.

SINGLE ELECTRIC BED, three positions, less than 1 year old. Vgc, £500. Tel: 01902 761979.

ACORN STAIRLIFT, NEVER used, installed February 2000. Left hand 150°in rail, 45 degrees. £900. Tel: 020 8514 0367 (Romford area).

CONCERN FOR COMFORT, motorized, fully adjustable single bed. Solid divan pocket sprung mattress, built in massage. Cost £2,650, will accept £1,500 ono. Tel: 01584 875308.

• Walking aids

RIFTON ELECTRONIC LIFT-WALKER assists adult or teenager to stand/walk – no lifting. As new, cost £1,700. Any reasonable offer secures. Buyer collects from Chester. Tel: 01244 319642.

• Recruitment (on pages 43 to 46)

"Whose Health is it Anyway?"

Two Theatre Project Workers
(30 hours per week)
Fixed-term contract
Salary: £18,546 per annum, pro rata (pt 29)

One Administrator Post
(30 hours per week)
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Annual leave for both posts 20 days per annum.

The Leeds Joint Commissioning Board for people with learning disabilities, in partnership with CHANGE, wishes to appoint a deaf or disabled person to work on the Leeds-based Theatre Project using Forum Theatre to explore health issues with people with learning disabilities.

Must have experience of working in an empowering way with people with disabilities. Must have experience of planning or leading drama-based projects.

For further information and an application form please send a 44p SAE to Marie Tomblin, CHANGE, First Floor, 69-85 Old Street, London EC1V 9HY. CVs not accepted.

Health Action Zone Innovation Fund Monies fund this project.

Closing date for applications is Tuesday 29 August 2000.



Receptionist

21 hours per week
Hours: 1.15pm – 5.30pm Monday to Thursday, 1.00pm – 5.00pm Fridays
Salary £9,580pa, plus pension scheme.



Sargent Cancer Care for Children is the UK's leading provider of psycho-social support to children and young people with cancer and their families.

We are seeking a Receptionist to provide full reception cover for our Hammersmith Office. Candidates should have experience of reception and/or clerical work and an excellent telephone manner. Duties will include dealing with incoming calls and taking messages where appropriate, meeting and greeting visitors, administering meeting room and car park bookings and providing administrative assistance to other departments when required.

Closing date Friday 11 August 2000.

This position is based in Hammersmith. For more information please contact, quoting Ref: REC00/07:
Laura Platon at Sargent Cancer Care for Children, Griffin House, 161 Hammersmith Road, London W6 8SG or call on 020 8752 2800.

• Combined adverts

MOBILE ELECTRIC HOIST (Opale) with a fleece and 2 bath slings, £200. Electric bath lift (Neptune), £150. Wheelchair (Carters Attendant), £50. All good condition. Tel: 020 8529 7934 (Chingford).

ELAP ROTATING CAR seat, unused, fits Volvo 200. Cost £630, offers around £450. Also, Uniscan frame with seat and brakes, £49. Aquasoothe electric bath seat, £280 ono. Tel: 01949 861345.

• Accommodation

ONE BEDROOM FLAT in complex, designed for physically disabled. 24 hour helpline from carers on site. Lowered kitchen work surfaces. Drop-down seat over bath. Close GP surgery, chemist, corner shop, easy reach local shops. 10 mins to sea. £49,950. Tel: 01323 760849.

• Help

UNIVERSITY RESEARCHER (BRIGHTON) is looking for advice from people with disabilities to establish what aspects of sexual expression they feel need investigating. Details of personal and private nature are not required, rather constructive suggestions are needed to help define and design a research project. For further information on the research, please e-mail L.Couldrick@brighton.ac.uk, or tel: 01273 643647 to obtain a project information sheet.

• Wanted

MALE, 58, WITH mild cp seeks placement in residential setting. Preferred location in the London area. Please forward information to Box No. PDM1, Disability Now, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW.

For personal ads, submit about 25 words and send a cheque or postal order for £6 payable to Disability Now with your ad. This is to help cover our costs. To reply to a personal ad indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to DN, address on page 2.

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2000
Classified deadlines for
the September issue:
Booking deadline is
11 August
Copy deadline is
15 August

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Excellent seaside site with good facilities,
just outside Looe in Cornwall. Restaurant,
clubhouse, indoor pool. Fully equipped and
wheelchair accessible 2 bedroom chalet
accommodation. Sleeps 6 - well furnished and
comfortable. Free club membership.
Vacancies August & September
Details: Mr P Cash, tel: (01425) 672055
Bournemouth Spina Bifida Association.
Registered Charity No. 261914.

Continued on page 45

• Contracts and tenders

**Funding Available to Voluntary Organisations
to provide
Borough-Wide, Strategic, Pan-Disability Services in Lewisham**

The London Borough of Lewisham is committed to best value services that promote social inclusion. We are seeking a voluntary sector provider to provide, high quality, strategic, pan-disability services to Lewisham's disabled communities. The Council will fund the successful applicant(s) for a period of 3 years from 1 January 2001. The successful applicant(s) will be those that can demonstrate an ability to:

- ♦ effectively contribute to national and local policies and strategies affecting disabled people and ensure that the views of key players in the community are represented
- ♦ advise and develop good practice guidelines on disability issues
- ♦ provide specialist information and advice on welfare benefits available to disabled people, their families and carers
- ♦ provide advocacy services for people with physical and/or sensory loss assessed in need of community care support

♦ raise additional funds to develop new projects/services that it identifies as key and significant to disabled people, their families and/or carers

Applications are welcome from agencies wishing to deliver all of the above services and from consortia or agencies wishing to bid for specific parts of the service.

Applicants must ensure that disabled people are fully involved in the management and operation of the organisation through participation as management committee members, staff and volunteers.

Application packs are available from 19 July 2000 with a return date of 25 September 2000 from:

Clare Rhule, Community Sector Unit, Education and Culture, 1st Floor Town Hall Chambers, Catford, London SE6 4RU Tel: 020 8314 6579 Fax: 020 8314 0157 email: clare.rhule@lewisham.gov.uk



• Recruitment (on pages 43 to 46)

BBC
Extend
Providing BBC work placements for talented disabled people
**Paid Work Experience
Opportunities for People
with Disabilities**
Extend is an annual scheme, which offers disabled people an opportunity to gain twelve weeks paid work experience in a wide variety of business units across the BBC. Extend has 2 strands; the first offers placements in our business units which support programme making areas such as human resources, finance, facilities management and technology; the second provides placements in programme making areas.
We are currently seeking applicants for a number of opportunities under Strand 1 of the scheme. Placements are available in London, Cardiff, Evesham, Nottingham, Glasgow, Birmingham and Horsham. As well as matching the criteria for the individual placement, you will need to demonstrate an interest in broadcasting and an aptitude for team work.
Please note that if you are interested in a placement in one of our programme making areas you should NOT reply to this advertisement. Strand 2 of Extend which offers opportunities in programme making will be advertised in January 2001.
Please note that only people with disabilities will be considered for these placements and candidates will have to undergo a selection process.
Details are available on audio cassette if required.
For further details and an application form, contact
BBC Recruitment Services by August 10th (quote ref. 45486/DI and give your name and address) Tel: 020 8740 0005.
Textphone: 020 8225 9878. Postcard: PO Box 7000, London W12 8GJ. E-mail: recserv@bbc.co.uk
Online: www.bbc.co.uk/jobs/e45486.shtml Closes: August 14th.
BBC
Working for equality of opportunity

**Want your advert to reach more people? Why not put
your advert on DN's website? To add yours, contact
Richard Gresham, tel: 020 7619 7336.**

Conditions
Disability Now maintains the right to amend or withdraw lineage adverts without prior notice. All adverts must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice.
Disability Now reserves the right to amend the wording of adverts, where necessary, to avoid words or phrases that may cause offense.
Box Numbers cannot be used for the sale of documents or goods. They can, however, be used in mitigating circumstances, by agreement with the Advertising Department.
Lineage adverts can only be used by private individuals. All commercial enquiries must be addressed to Richard Gresham, tel: 020 7619 7336, or Patrick Durham-Matthews, tel: 020 7619 7320.
DN cannot except responsibility for loss or damage of adverts (provided in any format) or letters during postage forwarding or returning.
Disability Now will endeavour to keep similar adverts together. However, due to deadlines, adverts may have to be placed in separate areas.

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Selection of 20-25 mostly one
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stock from £3,000 - £15,000.
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01634 243596

Continued on page 45

• Recruitment (on pages 43 to 46)

TEMPORARY CENTRE MANAGER

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

£22,659 - £24,612

To cover Maternity Leave for up to six months

Birmingham Centre for Independent Living (formerly the Disabled Living Centre).

We need a highly motivated individual to work with a committed staff team to deliver, promote and develop this service.

The Centre provides information, assessment, advice and training about equipment and home adaptations for disabled and older people. It offers an excellent range of facilities to the public and professionals, and plays a key role in the Occupational Therapy Service.

You must have a detailed understanding of equipment and adaptations with experience of delivering services to disabled people. You'll be a good organiser with the skills to manage the resources and day to day administration of a busy centre and to liaise with suppliers, agents, visitors, support services, colleagues and others. The ability to promote and develop the service and develop effective partnerships will be essential.

You will have proven skills in managing and teaching others and have a relevant professional or management qualification (e.g. OT, CSP, Nursing, Social Work). Most importantly you will be a good communicator with people and have a commitment to responsive service delivery.

We can offer good on-site resources, a professional development plan and regular supervision. There is a pension scheme and staff discounts. The Centre is near the City Centre with good bus connections and has secure parking.

Informal enquiries to Laura Brodrick, Head of Service on 0121 303 1759.

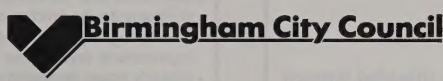
We particularly welcome applications from people from the Chinese, Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities who are currently under-represented in this service. Disabled applicants are also welcomed, and the Centre is fully accessible.

Application forms from Personnel and Training on 0121 303 4305.

Quote Ref No: 4173.

Closing date: 4 August 2000.

Interviews planned for week beginning 14 August 2000.



We welcome applications from all sections of the community, irrespective of race, colour, gender, sexuality or disability. Job sharers welcome, no partner necessary.

PROJECT WORKER

"Improving community equipment services"

Salary: £20,994

"The importance of equipment services to the lives of older or disabled people, coupled with the wide variations in all aspects of provision, makes concerted action essential at national, regional and local level".

'Fully Equipped', March 2000, Audit Commission

As part of a national strategy to promote improvements in community equipment provision, The Disabled Living Centres Council has been awarded a three year grant by the Department of Health which will fund this post.

The project will build on previous work to:

- 1) create a national information resource about developments in service provision;
- 2) promote and facilitate best practice.

The successful candidate will join a small, dedicated team in Manchester and will also need to travel throughout England, meeting and working with service users and providers, setting up training events and conferences.

If you are someone who has knowledge and experience of disability, health and social care policy, good organisational and communication skills and you want to make a difference, this post could be the one for you!

For an information pack and job application form contact: dlcc, Redbank House, 4 St Chad's Street, Manchester M8 8QA, tel: 0161 834 1044, fax: 0161 835 3591, e-mail: dlcc@dlcc.demon.co.uk



Closing date: Friday 11 August 2000
Interviews: week beginning 21 August 2000

dlcc is striving to be an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from disabled people.

• For sale

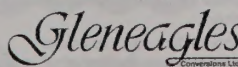
PRE-OWNED & DEMONSTRATOR WAV'S FOR SALE

Mercedes Vito 113 2.0, petrol, 1996 P, 46k miles, yellow. Lowered floor entrance, swivel seat in front, two seats in rear, winch	£12,995
Renault Kangoo Car RXE 1.4, petrol, 2000 V, 5k miles, met' green. Top of the range, ex-demonstrator, new full lowered floor, WAV conversion	£11,495
Skoda Cube 1.6, petrol, 1999 T, delivery miles only, white. New conversion including lowered floor, lightweight vision style ramp. Big saving on new price at	£10,995
Ford Courier 1.8, diesel, 1997 R, 18k miles, white. New lowered floor, WAV conversion	£10,495
Renault Extra 1.9, diesel, 1995 M, white. Lowering suspension, lowered floor, raised roof	£6,495
VW Transporter SWB 1.9, turbo diesel, 1998 R, 28k miles, red. New WAV conversion with vision style ramp, 4 passengers, driver and wheelchair passenger	£11,495
VW Transporter SWB 1.9, turbo diesel, 1995 M, green. WAV conversion, 4 passengers, driver and wheelchair	£9,750

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fax: (01334) 657711,
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Access Officer (Part-time)

£20,364 - £24,612 (pro rata)

At Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council we're committed to service excellence and best practice. A forward thinking organisation, we have succeeded by encouraging new ideas and implementing innovative approaches to local government. Bold and ambitious in our reach, it's vital to us that all our services are widely available and accessible for all members of the community.

That's where you come in. This is the opportunity to develop, implement and co-ordinate an access policy that is proactive and fully responsive. This will include liaison with the Basingstoke Access Committee, auditing council-owned property to assess accessibility, establishing an improvement programme and offering guidance for new planning applications. With particular reference to the built environment, you will promote a widespread awareness of the need for good access, advising members of the public on relevant issues as appropriate.

You will need to have:

- A professional qualification in either planning, architecture, building construction, community care or another relevant discipline.
- At least 2 years' practical experience of dealing with disabled access issues, providing for the needs of the disabled in the community, combined with an up-to-date understanding of related legal issues.
- Ideally, some working knowledge as a practising officer/consultant.
- Commitment to disabled people's equality
- Use of your own car for site visits.

Our generous benefits package includes lease car allowance and private medical insurance.

For an application form, (large print available if necessary) please telephone our 24 hour answering service on 01256 845584, quoting reference DSEA40 at the end of your call. Alternatively, write to the Human Resources Division, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 4AH for an application form to be sent to you. Our minicom number is 01256 845400.

Closing date: 16 August 2000.

Interview date: 29 August 2000.



**Basingstoke
and Deane**



Training Co-ordinator

Please apply to:

Mrs Pat Reynolds,
Disability Services Director
Surrey Association of
Youth Clubs and Surrey
Phab Limited Felbury
House Holmbury St Mary
Dorking RH5 6NL
Tel: 01306 730929.

This is a new post created through funding from the National Lottery Charities Board to develop a programme "4 steps to Access". This programme will be targeted at young disabled people who need to develop empowerment skills, become advocates in their own right with the long term aim of accessing further or higher education and/or employment opportunities.

We are looking for a person who is a qualified trainer and who has personal experience of impairment.

This is a part-time post of 20 hours per week, including some evening and weekend residential work.

This is new and exciting project.

• Services

Birkdale Clinic: my practice has a relaxed and tranquil atmosphere. The aim of the treatment, which comes about as a result of co-operation between myself, as the therapist, and the patients, is to empower, encourage and motivate the person to regain their confidence and awareness of their body. Call Mrs Bondarenko,
Tel: 020 8998 9403

Disability Now is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

Payday Services Limited

Payday Services provides payroll services for voluntary and non-profit making organisations, home carers, charities (no VAT) and SMEs.

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The Studio, Benefield Road, Brigstock NN14 3ES
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• Holidays

Near Salisbury - newly converted stable block self-catering units. Ground floor 1 double/twin bedroom en-suite wheel-in shower. Upstairs 1 double, 1 single, shower room. Open plan kitchen & living room. Patio & shared garden. ETB category 2, 4-star highly commended. Non-smoking. Prices from £195 pw. Available all year. Tel: 01722 349002, e-mail: mail@old-stables.co.uk, www.old-stables.co.uk

ALGARVE - PORTUGAL

Lots of villas, farmhouses, bungalows, hotels, B&B, car hire with hand controls, adapted vans and plenty to see and do. Contact: David Player
Tel: 00 351 289 393636
Fax: 00 351 289 397448 E-mail: dave@player.pt



www.player.pt

Blagdon Farm Country Holidays Devon/Cornwall border

Superb, south-facing, wheelchair accessible luxury bungalows overlooking lake and set within 38 acres of glorious countryside. Many on-site facilities including indoor heated pool. Take-away meals delivered and equipment loan available. Tourist Board Highly Commended.

For colour brochure please contact:
Pauline and Tony Blight, Blagdon Farm,
Ashwater, Beaworthy, Devon EX21 5DF.
Phone: 01409 211509. Fax 01409 211510.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE HOLIDAY COTTAGE IN RURAL FRANCE

Charming cottage in Dordogne region available for rent. Reasonable rates. If you are looking for peace and quiet, warm weather, good food and wine, this is the place for you. Book now for 2000. Call or fax Ed Passant on 0208 885 4971 or e-mail: ed.passant@mail.com

NORTH CUMBRIA

Cosy/well equipped lakeside lodges (2 b'rooms). Idyllic, peaceful & wonderful nature. Wheelchair friendly lodge and walks around lake & private nature reserve. Free use of wheely boat. Great fly fishing.
The Tranquil Otter
www.the-tranquil-otter.co.uk
01228 576661

LLETY MIERI LLANDEILO, WEST WALES

3 charming award-winning cottages, designed for wheelchair users and their families. Peaceful rural location overlooked by Dinffwr Castle. Each warm and well equipped cottage sleeps 4. Extensive grounds and games room. Open all year. Short breaks available. Tel: Catherine McLoughlin (01558 823 059) for brochure.

Brittany Cottage to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details **C. Hodgson.**
Tel (01924) 499220.

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Choose from 3 hotels in spectacular lochside settings near Fort William. Enjoy the freedom to select the hotel which sets the right atmosphere for your break. A choice of 10 rooms with disabled facilities, around the loch.
E-mail: reservations@freedomglen.co.uk
Tel: 01855 8215821, Fax: 01855 821463

www.freedomglen.co.uk

PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL "Holiday Care Award Winners"

Holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair users and their families. Rural setting with superb views. Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves and daily meal service.

Please ring or write for colour brochure.
**R&N Hall, Penrose Burden,
St Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall
PL30 4LZ. Telephone Bodmin
(01208) 850277 or 850617**

CAREFREE HOLIDAYS: SPAIN - COSTA ALMERIA

Does the idea of winter sunshine appeal to you? Read on! Wheelchair accessible accommodation overlooking the Med'. Minibus for transfers and excursions. Good home cooking and FREE wine with meals. Personal care available.
A totally relaxing holiday.

For brochure call 020 8205 6778
e-mail: bartlamcarefree@worldonline.fr

Special Families Home Swap Register

for physically disabled people. Swap your adapted home with others for breaks and holidays worldwide.

Tel/Fax: 01752 347577/344611,
E-mail: specialfamilies@carefree.net



Ashwellthorpe Hall Hotel, Nr Norwich

- Listed manor house • Wheelchair accessible throughout • Ceiling hoists etc • 11 acres of grounds • Friendly atmosphere • Good food • Minibus • Special interest breaks and holiday offers

Tel: 01508 489324 Fax: 01508 488409

Norfolk, Nar Valley Holiday Cottages

3 self-catering, all wheelchair accessible, 1 with wheel-in shower room, 2 with airbaths. Mostly en-suite. On working farm - peaceful location, central for beaches and tourist attractions. Indoor heated swimming pool now being built.
More details and prices, contact:
Rosemary on 01760 338797.

Due to the under-representation of black people, women and disabled people in this organisation, we positively encourage applications from these groups. Tamworth Borough Council is...

BOTTOM OF EVERY AD. **TOP OF OUR AGENDA.**



At the foot of every one of Tamworth Borough Councils' recruitment advertisements you'll find a statement of Equal Opportunity. It's not just empty promises, but a statement of real intent. We want our workforce to fully reflect the make up of our community. And that means everyone - black, white, male female, gay and people with disabilities.

It simply doesn't matter who you are, if you're good enough to do the job, you're good enough for us. So help us turn those words into action, and the action into a better future for us all. For more information, call us on 01827 709227 or 709232. Alternatively write to the Human Resource Unit, Tamworth Borough Council, Marmion House, Lichfield Street, Tamworth B79 7BZ.

Surrey Independent Living Council

Surrey Independent Living Council (SILC) is an organisation of disabled people contracted by Surrey Social Services to provide information and advice on direct payments to disabled people in the county.

We are seeking 2 disabled people for the following posts to help SILC's existing staff team to expand direct payments to a larger and more diverse group of disabled people. The ability to travel throughout the area is essential in both posts.

Personal Assistance Adviser

Based at SILC's Walton-on-Thames office you will work one-to-one with disabled people who are preparing for, or are already using, direct payments. 28 hours pw (flexible), salary: £15,192 to £15,775.

Co-ordinator of Support Workers and Advocates.

Working from home you will recruit and train people to support disabled people who need assistance to manage direct payments. 15 hours pw (flexible), salary: £8,139 to £8,451.

Please phone 01932 243527 or fax: 01932 245913 for details. Closing date 16 August and interviews 29-30 August.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER for **ARTSLINE**

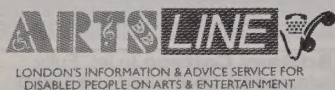
London's information and advice service for disabled people on access to the arts and entertainment.

Post holder will be expected to effectively promote and market our service and communicate our aims and objectives.

Salary: £17,363 pa gross. It is a full-time post.

Artsline is an equal opportunities employer.

Application forms and further details obtainable from: the Director, Artsline, 54 Chalton Street, London NW1 1HS by sending an A4 SAE.



Deadline for receipt of applications is 25 August.

Interview will be held week commencing 4 September.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Leeds Inter-Agency Project (Women & Violence)



LEEDS
CITY COUNCIL

Leeds Inter-Agency Project (Women & Violence) aims to improve the co-ordination and quality of services to women experiencing violence from men they know. Both statutory and voluntary organisations participate in the project.

PART-TIME DEVELOPMENT WORKER - DISABLED WOMEN, ref: A100 **18½ hours per week, fixed-term for 1 year** **SO1 £9,550 - £10,182 for 18½ hours**

LIAP is developing work to raise awareness of issues facing disabled women experiencing violence and improve access to services. The purpose of this post is to develop and support educational work with disabled women and raise awareness and develop good practice amongst agencies.

Candidates should have an in-depth awareness of the issues facing women experiencing violence and an understanding of the oppression of disabled people.

It is an essential requirement that the successful candidate has personal experience of being a disabled person.

The Leeds Inter-Agency Project (Women & Violence) is committed to developing anti-oppressive employment practice and ways of working.

The Department is committed to training and developing its staff.

Applications welcome from all, irrespective of gender, race, marital status, age, disability or sexual orientation.

For informal enquiries please contact Michell De Souza on Leeds (0113) 234 9090.

For application forms and job outlines please ring our answerphone service (24 hours) on Leeds (0113) 247 7965/Minicom Leeds (0113) 247 8769 or apply in writing enclosing a large self addressed envelope to Director of Social Services, Selectapost 9, 110 Merriam Centre, Leeds LS2 8QB.

Closing date: 10th August 2000

"WORKING TOWARDS EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY" **The City Council has a No Smoking Policy** **FULL-TIME POST(S) SUITABLE FOR JOB SHARING**

For more information on jobs with Leeds City Council see www.leeds.gov.uk/lcc/vacancies

Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea

ADKC, an organisation of disabled people who live and work in Kensington & Chelsea want to recruit disabled people for the following posts:

Leisure & Community Officer - Ref: LCO - 001

Salary: Scale 6 - Pt 26-28 (£19,776 - £20,928)
35 hours per week (some evening and weekend)

- To organise a diverse programme of group activities.
- To liaise with other service providers to increase leisure opportunities for disabled people.
- Some experience of organising group activities/events is essential.

Young People's Support Worker - Ref: YPW - 002

Salary: Scale 6 - Pt 26-28 (£19,776 - £20,928 pro rata)
28 hours per week (some evening and weekend)

- To outreach and make contact with young disabled people.
- To assist them in the transition from full-time education.
- To facilitate their access to local services and activities.
 - To empower them to articulate their needs.
- To encourage service providers to meet gaps identified in services.

Advocacy Worker - Ref: AW - 003

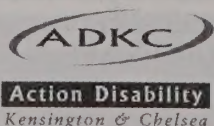
Salary: Scale 6 - Pt 26-28 (£19,776 - £20,928 pro rata)
17.5 hours per week - one year contract

- To carry out the role of Advocate for local disabled people.
- To empower individuals to take up future issues on their own.

Office fully accessible. For an application pack please send SAE for 41p to ADKC Centre, Whitstable House, Silchester Road, London W10 6SB or e-mail us at action@enterprise.net

Please quote the post reference number and where you saw the advert. Application packs available in all formats.

Closing date: 24 August 2000



west midlands police



Clerical Officer/WP Operator

Various locations

£8,790 at age 18, £9,504 at age 21 and over, increasing with annual increments to £12,000 pa

You will work within a team to provide a clerical and administrative/finance service to the operational command units at various locations within the West Midlands area.

Duties will include postal despatch, filing and maintaining supplies and correspondence, dealing with telephone/personal enquiries and operating computers in respect of data input, analysis and search procedures, general typing and document preparation.

These are interesting and challenging roles requiring good written and oral communication skills, basic numeracy, accurate keyboard skills at 25 wpm and the ability to answer the telephone effectively and efficiently.

Computer knowledge/experience and the ability to accurately record, copy and assemble and file information would be an advantage.

Part-time and job share opportunities available.

Application forms are available from Employee Resourcing, West Midlands Police, Police Headquarters, PO Box 52, Lloyd House, Colmore Circus Queensway, Birmingham B4 6NQ. Tel: 0121 626 5032 (24 hours).

If you have a disability and you meet the essential job requirements you will be shortlisted for inclusion in the recruitment process.

West Midlands Police has a positive equal opportunities policy to ensure that all applicants are treated fairly. We welcome applications from all sections of the community, regardless of age, race, marital status, gender or sexual orientation. We also operate a no-smoking at work policy.

CONTACT Peer Support service run by and for disabled people requires a



Disabled Development Worker Salary £19,101 (35 hours)

CONTACT provides a confidential one to one peer support service across the Bradford District promoting a social approach to disability. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the organisation and will need experience in all of the following areas:

- working under the direction of disabled people
- fund-raising, financial management and organisational development
- disability issues, legislation and equal opportunities
- making training, information and services accessible using current technology

For an application pack write to **CONTACT 17-21 Chapel St., Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD1 5DT**. Remember to state what format you require standard print, large print, audio cassette or Braille.



Closing date: 5pm, 11th August 2000
Interviews: 30th and 31st August 2000

• Personal

Handigate
A member of ABIA
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Established 1987

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Website: www.handigate.com

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Conditions

Disability Now maintains the right to amend or withdraw adverts without prior notice. All adverts must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice.

Box Numbers cannot be used for the sale of documents or goods.

Linage adverts can only be used by private individuals. All commercial enquiries must be addressed to the Advertising Manager (see imprint on page 2).

DN cannot except responsibility for loss or damage of adverts or letters during forwarding.

Classified deadlines for the September issue:
Booking deadline:
11 August
Copy deadline: 15 August

Disability Now is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

Taking control

Win!

comfortable ergonomic design and rubber back for better grip.

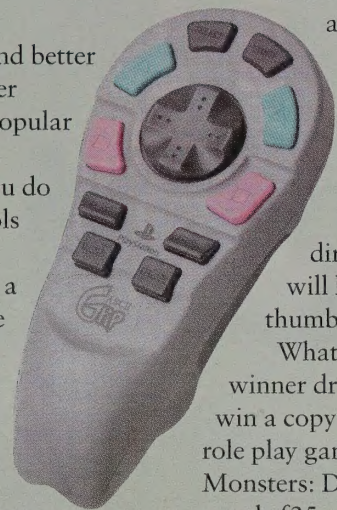
Three pre-programmed button configurations allow you to

customize it to suit you, such as using two buttons for difficult moves.

The one-piece directional disk will help prevent thumb fatigue.

What's more, the first winner drawn will also win a copy of the fantasy role play game Master of Monsters: Disciples of Gaia, worth £25.

So, for hours of fun, just fill out the coupon below.



With quicker machines and better graphics, computer games are more popular than ever.

But what do you do if standard controls are impractical?

Well, Agetec have a great solution: the ACSII Grip™ (compatible with all Sony Playstation™ games), and we have six to give away.

The one handed controller, for the Playstation has a

TO ENTER

Tick the ASCII Grip or Mean Fiddler competition circles below, add your details, and send FOR FREE to *Disability Now*, Freepost WD4323, London N7 9BR.

☐ ASCII Grip ☐ Reading ☐ Leeds

.....

.....

.....

TERMS & CONDITIONS

• Closing date for ASCII Grip: 31.8.2000, for Festivals: 11.08.00 • Entrants must be over 18 • No proof of purchase required • UK entrants only • No cash alternatives • Winners notified by post • Editor's decision is final • Special offers not open to DN staff or associates • Winners may be announced in DN • This is a joint partnership with Agetec and Mean Fiddler and we may use your name and address for further marketing purposes. Please tick the box if you do not wish your name and address to be included ☐

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Visa, Mastercard and Switch cards are accepted

Chartwell House, 292-294 Hale Lane, Edgware, Middx HA8 8NP.

The stage is set...

Win!



What better way to celebrate the summer than to chill out with your mates watching some of the best bands in the world?

Thanks to Mean Fiddler, that's exactly what you could be doing, as DN has two pairs of tickets to the Reading Festival and two pairs for the Leeds Festival, worth £80 a ticket.

Reading takes place 25-27 August, Leeds 26-28 August. The line up of bands is the same for both events – they just swap between venues.

No matter what your taste in music, you'll be happy. Main stage bands include Oasis, Primal Scream, Foo

Fighters, Pulp, Beck, Gomez, Super Furry Animals, Stereophonics, Eminem and Rage Against the Machine.

Other bands include Embrace, Ian Brown and dance maestros Laurent Garnier and Andrew Weatherall.

Disabled facilities are the best of any festival. There will be a designated campsite area for disabled visitors where you can park by your tent if you display an Orange Badge. If you don't have one, contact

Sharon Reuben in advance for a car pass. In this area three friends can camp with each disabled person (one car maximum). Each disabled visitor will get a free weekend ticket for a carer (just buy a

ticket in advance – your details will be kept on file – and write to Sharon Reuben with proof of disability) that can be picked up on arrival.

There will be an electric hook-up close to the disabled camping area for charging wheelchairs, as well as disabled toilets, showers in the guest area, and toilets at the stages. One person can accompany each wheelchair user on stage viewing platforms, and they can take wheelchairs.

Contact Sharon Reuben for full details, car pass and carer ticket at The Mean Fiddler, 22-28a Harlesden High Street, London NW10 4LX, tel: 020 8961 5490.

What's in DN next month?



BACK TO SCHOOL

DN's annual feature includes one mum's fight for post-16 education and how to survive your first term at university.

HIDDEN DISABILITIES

Should you tell?

IF YOUR CULTURE DOESN'T CARE

DN investigates cultural prejudice in the UK.

BENEFIT YOURSELF (2)

Make sure you're claiming Invalid Care Allowance, says Mike Hurdiss.

Plus the best news, views, jobs and offers. On sale 28 August.

NEWSAGENT ORDER FORM

(Please complete and take to your newsagent)

Please reserve me a regular copy of *Disability Now* until further notice ☐

Please deliver a copy of *Disability Now* to my home address ☐

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Signature:

To the newsagent: *Disability Now*, ISSN 0958-4676, is published monthly by Scope, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW. It is distributed by MMC Ltd, Octagon House, White Hart Meadows, Ripley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6HR. Tel: +44 (0)1483 211222, fax: +44 (0)1483 224541.

As a wheelchair accessible vehicle user
What do you look for?

- ✓ **affordability**
- ✓ **choice**
- ✓ **peace of mind**
- ✓ **sound advice**
- ✓ **safety and security**



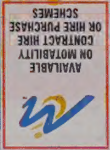
Cruiser
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THE LEWIS REED GROUP

Valiant Way, Lairdside Technology Park, Birkenhead, Merseyside CH41 9HS

With our 20 years experience in the motor industry you can be sure you are speaking to the right people at Lewis Reed Group. Our wheelchair accessible vehicles start from as little as £14,850 converted and on the road but remain big on quality and design despite the small price tag. Our market leading developments in safety and comfort ensures you get the right vehicle at the right price whatever your needs. Call us now for our information pack or to discuss our home demonstration service.

Telephone us on: **0151 650 2334** or Fax: **0151 650 2031**



Disability**Now**

£1.80 September 2000

The campaigning newspaper that puts you in the picture

Loadsamoney

for health, transport
 and education



Gotcha!

Keegan to judge
 sports photo comp



Summer trips

Days out for everyone



Jobs

p43-46 and on our website: www.disabilitynow.org.uk